

LEAGUE CUP FINALS

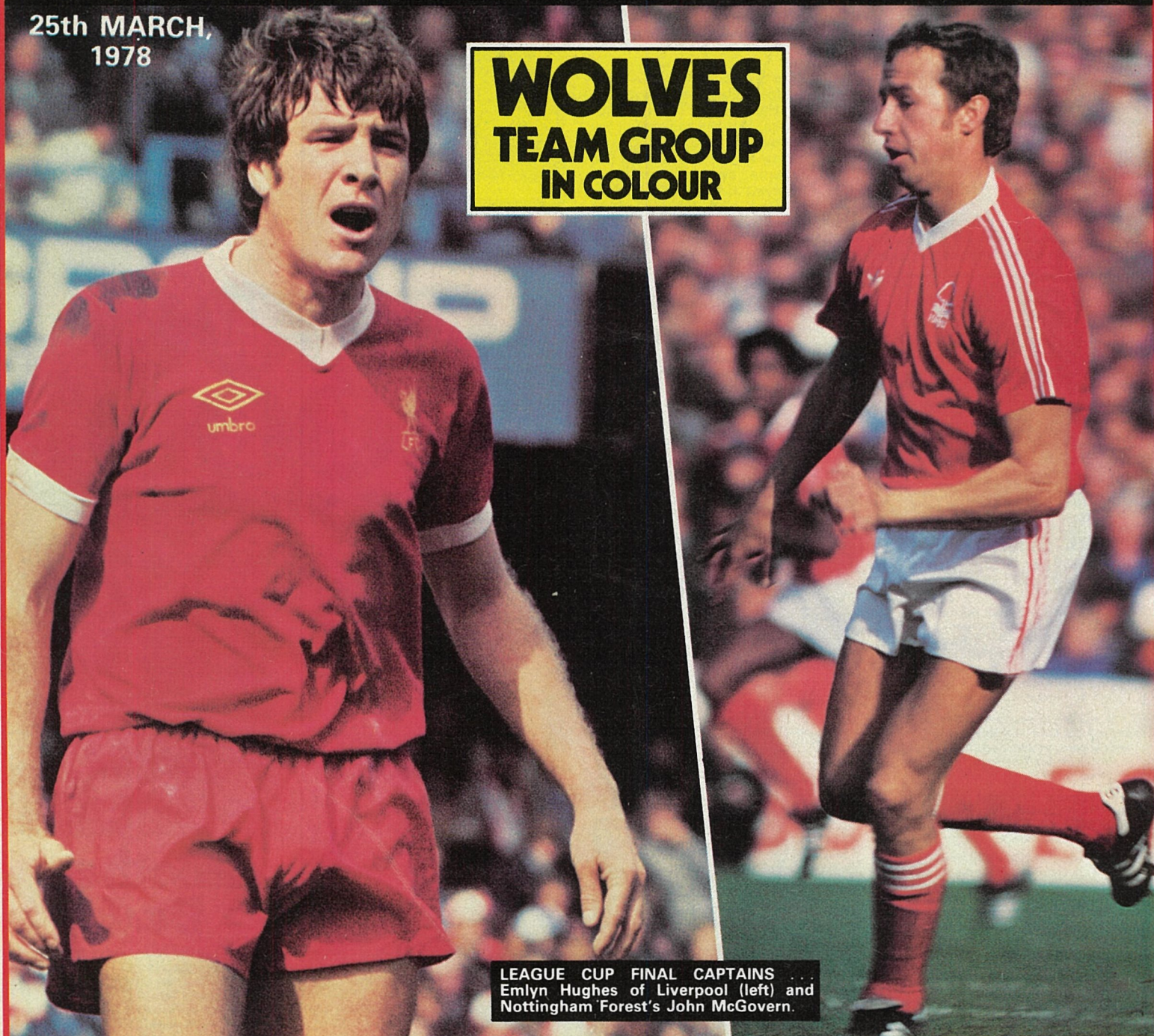
LIVERPOOL v NOTTM. FOREST / CELTIC v RANGERS

SHOOT!

15p

25th MARCH,
1978

WOLVES
TEAM GROUP
IN COLOUR



LEAGUE CUP FINAL CAPTAINS ...
Emlyn Hughes of Liverpool (left) and
Nottingham Forest's John McGovern.

Can Bob Latchford become the League's top marksman?

WHY SUNDERLAND'S BEEN A HIT AT ARSENAL

ARSENAL'S latest signing, striker Alan Sunderland (right), believes there's one unusual reason for his fine form at the start of his Highbury career. Sunderland, who went to the North London club for a £200,000 fee from Wolves, says the Arsenal fans have played a big part in his success.

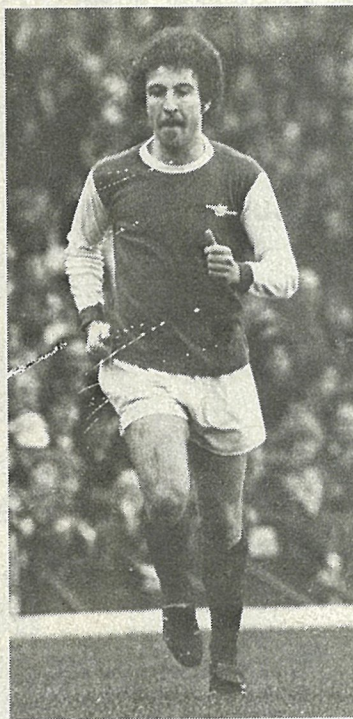
"I can say this now I have left Molineux but the fans up there make it so difficult for the players. They are always on about the great Wolves' side of the 1950's and it makes it terribly hard for the lads there now to live up to that. Quite simply, they can't be expected to. All it does is put additional pressure on the current-day players.

"I haven't found problems like that at Arsenal. Maybe it's because things have gone well for the side

for so much of this season. We are challenging for the League title, reached the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup with a massive 5-0 away win at Sheffield United and did well in the League Cup.

"I suppose it's true to say fans **WOULD** be happy with that sort of form. But despite that, I've found it has helped me being away from that sort of pressure up at Molineux.

"The Wolves' fans must be patient. Wolves will be a great side again — they've got some fabulous players. But the fans must try and get behind the team more than talking about the side of the '50's. People should remember this is Wolves' first season back in Division One and they've done well. Miracles don't happen overnight and the Molineux fans should remember that."



BRENTFORD midfielder player Doug Alder puts his improved form this season down to his daughter Hayley.

Last season, when Doug was at Orient, Hayley underwent a heart operation and he believes the worry had a considerable effect on his play.

Now Hayley has made a splendid recovery, Dougie can concentrate on his game far more. With the result he is producing some of the best football of his career.

ON February 13th, 1978, Alan Durban was appointed manager of Stoke City. It was exactly four years to the day that he was named boss of Shrewsbury Town the club he left to go to the Second Division outfit.

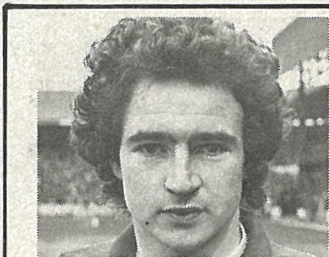
PROGRAMME FAIR

A Programme Fair is to be held in the Social Hall at Crystal Palace Football Club on Sunday, 19th March, from 11am-2pm with admission at 20p.

'Fair deal for fans'

THE bad weather that brought soccer almost to a full stop in February has seen Crystal Palace manager Terry Venables appeal for all League fixtures in December, January and February to be localised.

Terry says: "It is the supporter who suffers most when a game is called off because players and staff are paid for their trouble while the fan pays out twice with no chance of a refund."



LIVERPOOL FACE MARTIN'S MAGIC

SATURDAY'S (March 18) Nottingham Forest - Liverpool League Cup Final, at Wembley, will be Forest striker Martin O'Neill's first major decider since his dazzling two-goal display in Distillery's 3-0 1971 Irish F.A. Cup Final win v. Derry City.

It will be 25-year-old Martin's second big-time Wembley appearance, as has played there as a substitute for Northern Ireland v. England in 1974.

Scintillating O'Neill is currently enjoying his best-ever campaign since his £15,000 arrival at the City Ground, from Distillery, late in 1971.

First capped while with Distillery, v. Russia, in October, 1971, the Kilrea-born Forest star, who should total close on 200 League appearances by the end of the season, has now beaten the all-time 20-cap Forest record of now retired compatriot Liam O'Kane.

If Forest overcome Liverpool on Saturday, then O'Neill will become the sixth Northern Ireland player to collect a League Cup-winning medal, the others being Peter McParland (Aston Villa, 1961); Jimmy Hill (Norwich, 1962); Pat Jennings (Tottenham, 1971 and '73); Derek Dougan (Wolves, 1974), and Chris Nicholl (Aston Villa, 1975 and '77).

CHRIS THOMPSON, the promising Bolton striker, might have easily been playing for one of the Midland giants.

Walsall-born, he played for West Bromwich schoolboys and the Staffs county side. But it was Bolton who snapped him up when he was only 16.

Young Chris was always a great West Brom fan and he actually followed them from 1965 to 1973. He could well be playing against them next season — provided Bolton gain the promotion they look pretty certain to get this time.

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART



NEW manager, new broom, new job... that is how the success story of Motherwell star Peter Miller goes.

When Roger Hynd, the ex-Rangers, Crystal Palace, Birmingham and Walsall defender, took over at Fir Park he switched Miller to midfield from being an out-and-out defender.

The new boss told Peter not to fret over the opposition, but let them worry about him.

New training methods involving more ball work have also helped. "It has brought my skills on a ton," Peter freely admits.

And Motherwell's performances since Roger Hynd took over, have come on by leaps and bounds as well.

Mike's heading for the States

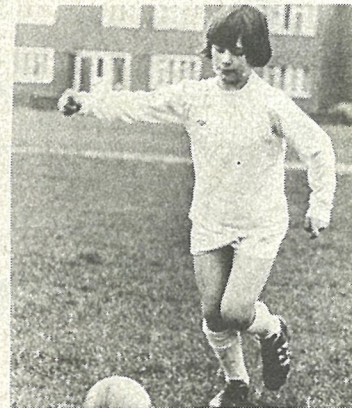
CHARLTON have arranged a five-year-old deal with North American club New Hampshire, managed by former Manchester United defender and Coventry and Peterborough boss Noel Cantwell, to exchange players on a loan basis.

First big signing for New Hampshire, based in Boston, is England "B" striker Mike Flanagan (above).

"The prospect of playing in the States during our close-season is very exciting," said Mike. "This deal will benefit both clubs."

Noel also hopes to include Norwich and former England midfielder Martin Peters in his side.

● Sheffield United's new boss Harry Haslam didn't look far when he wanted to appoint a new player-coach. He offered the job to the club's veteran star Alan Woodward, who quickly accepted.



Another Best

A NEW football talent with a familiar name is emerging in the backstreets of Belfast... he's Ian Busby Best (above), 11-year-old brother of George Best.

Named after Sir Matt Busby of Manchester United, George's old team, Ian has scored 37 goals for Cregagh Primary School this season.

Ian's most treasured possessions are souvenirs from brother George's glory days at Old Trafford.

"He's inherited the family talent," says Ian's team coach Ivan Parkinson.

QUICK SALE

THE £60,000 move of Gary Shelton from Walsall to Aston Villa was the quickest transfer of the season.

From the first telephone call made by Villa's Ron Saunders to the signing took just on three hours.

Shelton himself agreed to the move after only five minutes' talk with Saunders.

Walsall's manager, Dave Mackay, said: "It was a good move for everyone concerned."

"Villa get a very promising young player, while Walsall have received £60,000 with another £20,000 after Gary has played in 15 first team games and an additional £20,000 when he was recorded 50 appearances."

"Gary is now receiving three or four times his previous salary and playing First Division soccer into the bargain. It can't be bad."

HALIFAX TOWN player-manager Jimmy Lawson has gone back to his last club Huddersfield for his first signing.

Lawson has picked up Francis Firth on a free transfer and hopes this young player, who originally started out as a winger but has switched to full-back, can achieve more at The Shay than he did at Leeds Road.

SOME goalkeepers have the uncanny knack of saving penalties, and two who've been excelling in that respect this season are Terry Lee, of Torquay United, and Peter Downsbrough, of Bradford City.

Both have pulled off a string of spectacular saves — but neither is likely to match the performance of Kettering Town 'keeper Tim Mearns, back in 1903-04 in the Southern League. He saved 19 penalties that season!

A CHIPPED bone hand injury at Tranmere last Boxing Day put England youth international goalkeeper Chris Turner out of the Sheffield Wednesday team.

The revival of The Owls since then and the good form of Bob Boulder, also 19, has kept Turner in the reserves.

But for how long? Turner, whom Gordon Banks rated so highly when he last saw him, will be eyed by many clubs if Boulder (bought from Dover last March) remains in possession.

CLUBS WATCHING BAILEY

SEVERAL big clubs are casting envious eyes on John Bailey, Blackburn Rovers' skilful young full-back. Liverpool-born he joined Rovers as an apprentice and made his entry into the League side towards the end of the 1975-76 season.

During his early games he played in several positions but since taking over at left-back has been one of the outstanding defenders in the Second Division, hence the interest of the bigger clubs. But while Rovers have any chance of promotion there seems little chance of John Bailey leaving Ewood Park.

HEARTS did Meadowbank Thistle a good turn when they told the Second Division club that 18-year-old Jackie Smyth, the Irishman they released after a month's trial at the end of last season, was still staying in Edinburgh and on the lookout for another club. Meadowbank signed him and he's brought a bit of Irish Luck to the struggling Thistle.

Smyth was still on the bench when new manager Willie Macfarlane took over. Says Macfarlane: "In training I found Jackie had a lot of skill and I had no hesitation in giving him his team place."

The pint-sized winger soon started finding the net and in the Scottish Cup Third Round tie against East Stirling scored the opening goal. In the next round he scored both goals which dumped Highland League Champions Inverness Caley 2-1.

Meadowbank are now thankful that the wee Irishman didn't decide to return home disillusioned to Belfast when things didn't turn out right for him at Tynecastle.



LET US PLAY...

WHEN you are bottom of your Division, anything's worth trying.

So recently, Second Division Millwall players and fans attended a special service where Father David Diamond urged "The Great Fan In The Sky" to raise the team to more heavenly heights.

"Who knows?" he preached. "Even to the First Division. Miracles do happen!" The soccer-crazy canon even led the

Mass congregation in three cheers for Millwall.

After the service at St. Paul's Church in Deptford, South London, near The Den, Father Diamond expressed confidence that the angels are now firmly on the side of The Lions.

Pic: Father Diamond preaching a winning sermon to Millwall players and supporters.

A JENNINGS may be quitting the game at the end of this term, but Arsenal and Northern Ireland fans can relax. It's not the brilliant Gunners' 'keeper.

Instead, it's Pat's older brother, Brian, who recently told SHOOT: "I have enjoyed my 13 years with Coleraine, but recurring injuries at my age (33) don't help and this season may be my last in senior football."

An Irish amateur cap, utility forward Brian has won three Irish F.A. Cup medals and a League Championship medal with The Bannside, whom he joined from Portadown, in 1964-65.

2 GIANT POSTER MAGAZINES...

SOCCER SUPERSTARS

Get on the ball with Soccer Superstars, the latest football 'first' from Shoot magazine. Two special poster magazines each unfold into a giant-size colour picture of seven of today's top soccer superstars. The reverse sides are packed with lots of personal information. The first poster shows Andy Gray, Mick Channon, Gordon Hill, Ray Wilkins, Ray Clemence, Danny McGrain and John Greig; the second, Malcolm Macdonald, George Best, Duncan McKenzie, Stuart Pearson, Trevor Francis, Alan Rough and Bruce Rioch.

SOCCER SUPERSTARS 35p EACH

If you have any difficulty obtaining these from your newsagent, send 40p (inc. postage and packing) for each publication ordered to Post Sales Dept., Lavington House, Lavington Street, London SE1 0PF.

OUT NOW

IF Bob Latchford maintains his goalscoring form and stays clear of injury he stands a great chance of becoming the first First Division player to top the Football League's scoring list outright for nine years. Up to and including Saturday, March 4th, he had scored 21 goals in League matches.

Indeed only six times since the War has a First Division player finished top scorer in the Football League, and only once in the past eight seasons can the First Division boast even a joint top scorer. The last was West Ham's Bryan Robson in 1973 when he tied with Fred Binney of Exeter on 28.

Undoubtedly, one reason for this rather disturbing figure is the fact that since the 1950-51 season, teams from the lower two Divisions have played 46 matches whilst the First and Second continue to play 42.

Yet despite such an obvious disadvantage, in nine of those 26 seasons the gap between the leading scorer in the League and in the First Division has reached double figures.

Even the best of strikers would be hard pushed to make up such a gap in so few games.

Only four times since the War has the top scorer outside the First failed to reach the 30 goal mark, and on three of these occasions a First Division striker has topped the League chart.

Yet without doubt the most prolific post-War goalscorer to grace the Football League was a First Division player, the irrepressible Jimmy Greaves.

Can Everton's ENGLAND'S LEAGUE

"Greavsy" topped the First Division goalscorers on no less than six occasions, twice leading the Football League's charts also. No other player has ever topped his own Division's goalscorers so frequently.

In fact, Greaves is one of only seven post-War players to have topped the Football League goalscorers on more than one occasion. The other members of this élite group are Arthur Rowley of Leicester, Tommy Briggs of Grimsby and Blackburn, Brian Clough when playing in the Second Division for Middlesbrough, Ron Davies with Southampton, Ted MacDougall in his Bournemouth days, and, most recently of all, Dixie McNeil before his transfer from Hereford to Wrexham.

Greaves also holds the record for the most number of goals scored



Another goal for Jimmy Greaves (number 10) — this on his Spurs debut.

YOU ARE THE REF



Compiled by
STAN LOVER,
President of
the London
Referees' Society

1

A goalkeeper shouts: "Leave it, Mike!" when the ball is about to be headed by an attacker. The opponent is obviously distracted. Do you (a) take no action, (b) caution the 'keeper and drop the ball or (c) caution and award a free-kick?

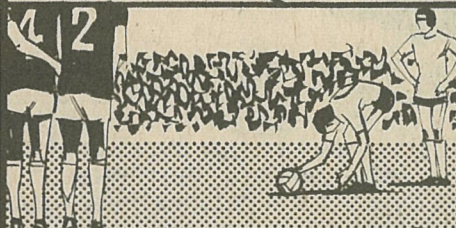


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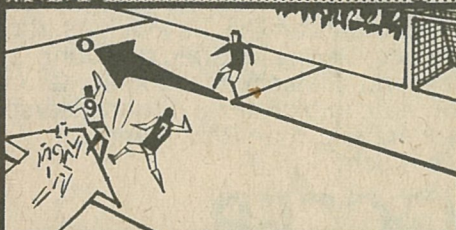
A: At a kick-off two players are standing close to the ball. After you have signalled, a third player runs to the ball and kicks it forward. Do you (a) take no action, (b) have the kick retaken or (c) caution the third player and award a free-kick?



B: In a strong wind, an attacker steadies the ball with his hand while a team-mate takes a direct free-kick and scores. Do you award (a) a goal, (b) a goal-kick or (c) a free-kick to the defending team?



C: At a goal-kick an attacker runs into the penalty-area and is tripped just before the ball leaves the penalty-area. Do you (a) caution the offender and have the goal-kick retaken, (b) award a penalty-kick or (c) caution the offender and drop the ball?



ANSWERS . . .

1. The goalkeeper should be cautioned for un-gentlemanly conduct and an indirect free-kick awarded (c). 2A: Take no action (a). No offence has been committed. B: Award a goal (a). C: The ball had not passed into play beyond the penalty-area when the offence was committed. Correct decision is (a).

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Bob Latchford become CHAMPION STRIKER?

in the First Division since the War in one season.

In 1960-61, whilst playing for Chelsea, Jimmy found the net 41 times in 40 League games, but still failed to claim the League's leading goalscorer title.

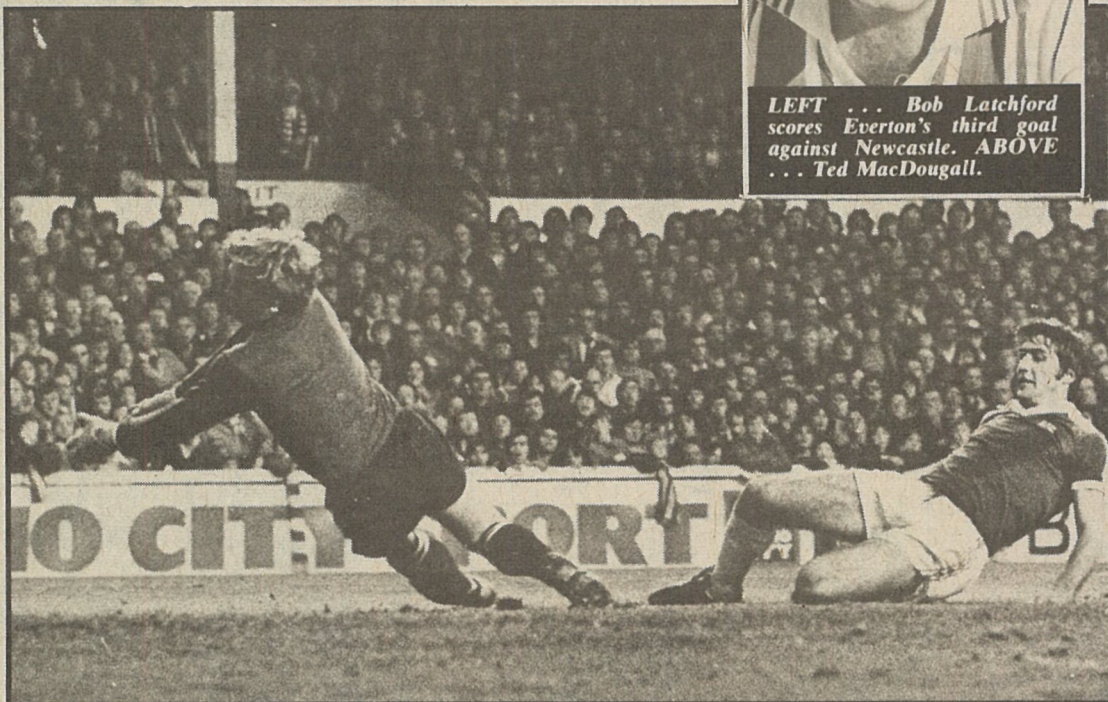
In that same season Peterborough's Terry Bly made the life of Fourth Division goalkeepers a misery by scoring 52 goals in the League alone to establish a post-War record which has only once been neared within ten goals, when Ted MacDougall, then with Bournemouth, scored 42 League goals in the 1970-71 season.

With the emphasis now placed more on defensive football perhaps it is not surprising to see that the last First Division striker to score 30 League goals was Francis Lee in the 1971-72 season.

In fact Lee is the only First Division player to have reached this figure in the past ten seasons.

If Latchford continues to score at his current rate he will have netted 32 times by the end of the term, possibly sufficient to become the League's Champion goalscorer for the season.

If he succeeds in his aim, Latch-



LEFT ... Bob Latchford scores Everton's third goal against Newcastle. ABOVE ... Ted MacDougall.

LEADING MARKSMEN SINCE 1946-47

SEASON	DIV.	1 TOP SCORER	GLS	LEAGUE TOP SCORER	DIV	GLS
1946-47	D.	Westcott (Wolves)	37	C. Jordan (Doncaster)	3(N)	41
1947-48	R.	ROOKE (Arsenal)	33			
1948-49	W.	Moir (Bolton)	25	C. Wayman (Southampton)	2	32
1949-50	D.	Davis (Sunderland)	25	T. Briggs (Grimsby)	2	35
1950-51	S.	Mortensen (Bl'pool)	30	J. Shaw (Rotherham)	3(N)	37

Introduction of 46 games for lower two Divisions.

1951-52	G.	Robledo (Newcastle)	33	D. Dooley (Sheff. Wed)	2	46
1952-53	C.	Wayman (Preston)	24	A. Rowley (Leicester)	2	39
1953-54	J.	Glazard (Huddersf')	29	J. Charles (Leeds)	2	42
1954-55	R.	Allen (WBA)	27	T. Briggs (Blackburn)	2	33
1955-56	N.	Lofthouse (Bolton)	33	R. Collins (Torquay)	3(S)	40
1956-57	J.	Charles (Leeds)	38	A. Rowley (Leicester)	2	44
1957-58	R.	Smith (Tottenham)	36	B. Clough (M'dlsbrough)	2	40
1958-59	J.	Greaves (Chelsea)	33	B. Clough (M'dlsbrough)	2	42
1959-60	D.	Viollet (Man. Utd)	32	C. Holton (Watford)	4	42
1960-61	J.	Greaves (Chelsea)	41	T. Bly (Peterborough)	4	52
1961-62	R.	Crawford (Ipswich)				
	D.	Kevan (WBA)	33	R. Hunt (Liverpool)	2	41
1962-63	J.	GREAVES (Tottenham)	37			
1963-64	J.	Greaves (Tottenham)	35	H. McIlmoyle (Carlisle)	4	39
1964-65	J.	Greaves (Tottenham)				
	A.	McEvoy (Blackburn)	29	A. Jeffrey (Doncaster)	4	36
1965-66	R.	Hunt (Liverpool)	30	K. Hector (Bradford)	4	34
1966-67	R.	DAVIES (Southampton)	37			
1967-68	R.	DAVIES (Southampton)				
	G.	BEST (Man. Utd)	28			
1968-69	J.	GREAVES (Tottenham)	27			
1969-70	J.	Astle (WBA)	25	A. Kinsey (Wrexham)	4	27
1970-71	A.	Brown (WBA)	28	E. MacDougall (B'mouth)	4	42
1971-72	F.	Lee (Man. City)	33	E. MacDougall (B'mouth)	3	35
1972-73	B.	ROBSON (West Ham)	28	F. Binney (Exeter)	4	28
1973-74	M.	Channon (Southampton)	21	B. Yeo (Gillingham)	4	31
1974-75	M.	Macdonald (Newcastle)	21	R. McNeil (Hereford)	3	31
1975-76	E.	MacDougall (Norwich)	23	R. McNeil (Hereford)	3	35
1976-77	A.	Gray (Aston Villa)				
	M.	Macdonald (Arsenal)	25	P. Ward (Brighton)	3	32

Chart shows League goals only.

ford will become the first Evertonian to lead his own Division's scorers since Tommy Lawton in 1939.

Bob will also follow in the tradition of that other famous Goodison Park striker "Dixie" Dean who, in the 1927-28 season scored an all-time record 60 League goals.

What better way can Evertonians celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dean's record-breaking achievement than by cheering Bob Latchford to top the League scorers' list with what will probably turn out to be only slightly more than half his famous predecessor's total?

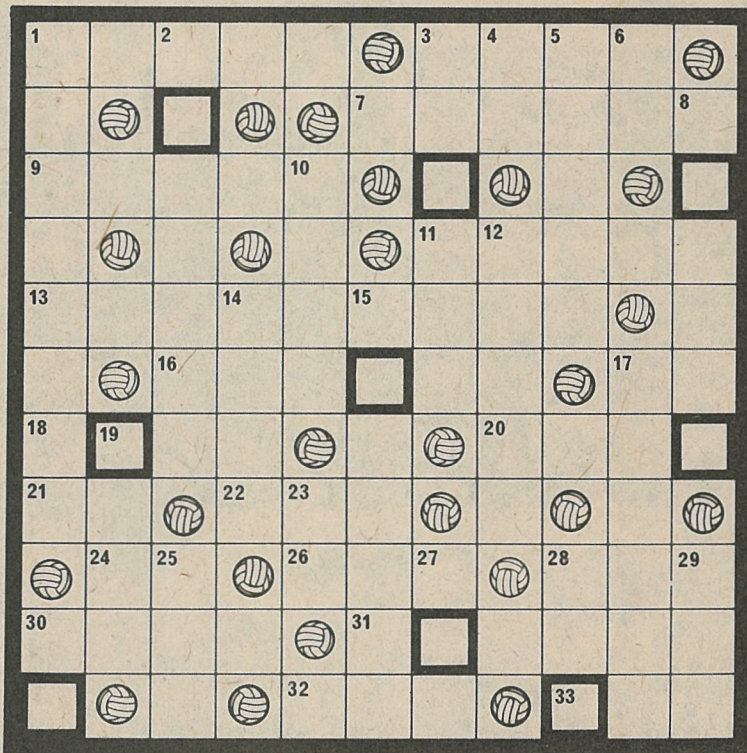


Arsenal's Malcolm Macdonald has topped the goal charts twice.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Nottingham Forest midfielder.

Answers on page 38.



ACROSS:

- (1) Joe —, of Bradford City.
- (3) Trevor —, Everton midfielder.
- (7) — Scottish club from Cappielow Park.
- (9) Joint of the lower leg.
- (11) Derision . . . perhaps for a bad team or performance.
- (13) Ground of Huddersfield Town. (5 & 4)
- (16) Talent in another way could be dormant or concealed.
- (17) Ian — John, former famous name with Liverpool.
- (18) Sheffield Wednesday, The ----.
- (20) — Ground; home of Nottingham Forest.
- (21) M-li-eux (Wolves ground). The omissions reversed.
- (22) Asa --rtfor- of Manchester City.
- (24) Les Str--g of Fulham.
- (26) Alan Ball, Southampton's — field player.
- (28) De-- Cour-; home of Bournemouth.
- (30) Take four letters from the answer to 15 down for a notion.
- (31) Remove the rear from Recreation and make the remainder into an announcement.
- (32) -ig- Lan- (Bury). A word from the missing letters, reversed.
- (33) Lincoln City are nicknamed The --- Imps.

DOWN:

- (1) Former famous name with Man. Utd. and England. Bobby —
- (2) Ground of Barnsley.
- (3) Keith — plays for Norwich City.
- (4) R-ke- Park, Sunderland.
- (5) Gold---ne Gr-un-home of Brighton.
- (6) Roger O-b-rne of Ipswich.
- (8) The number of minutes play in normal time. (For a complete match)
- (10) — Stirling (Scots Div. II).
- (12) Hold or grasp from a throw or kick. As the 'keeper might — the ball.
- (14) Short fast run.
- (15) English Fourth Division club from Elm Park.
- (17) Pose or attitude from the missing letters in --rli-l- U-i-ed (Eng Div. III).
- (19) George —, Everton 'keeper.
- (23) Frank L--pard of West Ham.
- (25) ---castle United from St James' Park.
- (27) One called "Pickles" recovered the World Cup trophy when it was stolen in 1966.
- (28) St--z Park, Stranraer.
- (29) — Drake, former famous football star with Arsenal.
- (30) John Holl--s of Queens Park Rangers.

'Liverpool's will win

LIVERPOOL will win the League Cup for the first time, beating the people's favourites, Nottingham Forest at Wembley this Saturday . . . that's my confident prediction.

To be honest, I'd prefer to see Forest win and most neutrals will be behind them, too.

Forest deserve some sort of reward for what they've done this season and I've even been hoping to see them achieve the "impossible" Treble.

Yes, why not? If Brian Clough's boys managed that, maybe more sides would copy Forest's way of playing, which has been a fine advertisement for the First Division.

To say they've been like a breath of Spring is putting it mildly. Few expected them to make the sort of impact they have, but their attacking, polished approach to the game has won them points and admirers.

However, as much as I'd like to tip Forest, my head says it will be Liverpool.

My main reason for going for The Reds is their experience at this level. Cup Finals have become almost second nature to the Anfield men and while Forest have done extremely well to get to Wembley . . . Wembley can't be compared with the earlier rounds.

I remember a year ago when Villa were about to play Everton in the League Cup Final. We were playing superbly and had the Final been at any ground other than Wembley

I'm sure we'd have won at the first time of asking.

As it was, too many of us seemed a little overcome by the occasion — few of us had had experience of Wembley or Cup Finals and this showed in our play.

It was, without doubt, our worst display of the season and I felt very sorry for our fans. My lasting memory of the Final is the empty feeling I had when, at the end of the game, we went up the steps to the Royal Box . . . and came straight down again. This summed up the game, really — nothing happened!

ANDY GRAY
writes for you

Of course, Villa eventually beat Everton in a thrilling second replay at Old Trafford and television viewers were able to see the true Villa that night. I was sick that an injury sidelined me, but I was delighted the lads had won and won by playing good football.

Forest did well to beat Leeds over two legs in the Semis. I certainly didn't expect them to score seven goals against the Elland Roaders.

Also, Forest have reached Wembley without the Cup-tied Peter Shilton, Dave Needham and Archie



experience the Cup'

Gemmill. It's *now* that the absence of this talented trio could be REALLY noticed.

Forest knocked us out of the League Cup and deservedly so, but their teenage stand-in for Shilton, Chris Woods, made a dreadful clanger and gave us a goal.

Having said that, he'll probably play a blinder at Wembley, although the occasion will test even the most experienced of players.

Three days before the League Cup Final, Liverpool had to play Benfica in the second-leg of the European Cup Quarter-Finals.

I'm writing this before that match, but with a 2-1 lead from Lisbon I can hardly imagine Liverpool slipping up.

A European tie and a Cup Final within the space of a few days would give just about any other side nightmares — not Liverpool, though.

If they can come back to win the European Cup after losing the F.A. Cup Final — as they did last season, of course — then nothing can be regarded as a setback to them!

Although this is another wonderful season for Liverpool, I still believe they aren't playing to the high standards they've set themselves.

I've noticed some uncharacteristic gaps at the back, possibly due to changes and new faces coming in the side.

Liverpool, perhaps more than

most teams, have a different approach to home and away games, especially Cup-ties.

Wembley is neither home nor away. It's impossible to categorise it... Wembley is Wembley.

The Final should be a classic. We haven't seen many outstanding League Cup Finals, and this may be because the competition doesn't have the magic of the F.A. Cup.

We've seen Second and Third Division clubs at Wembley or making a big impact and while such turn-ups are the lifeblood of soccer... perhaps they can work against you at times. Liverpool against Forest is the perfect Final and the

ABOVE... "In action against Everton at Wembley in last year's League Cup Final."

RIGHT... "Forest danger man John Robertson."

BELOW... "Liverpool have bags of experience and Wembley is almost a second home to them."



Football League must be delighted.

I imagine Brian Clough will lead his team out; I can't see him having the day off to play squash or go to Spain! What style the man has! Someone asked me if I could imagine Ron Saunders playing golf instead of attending a Villa game!

Cloughie is unique. He can't be compared with any other manager and who can argue with his methods? His record is there to be looked at — and admired.

He has this ability to get the most out of players who, if they were with other teams, wouldn't be nearly as effective.

Norwich manager John Bond said the other week that left-winger John Robertson is Forest's danger man and I go along with this.

John is always available and must send over between 15 and 20 good crosses a game. As a centre-forward I know how much the likes of Peter Withe would appreciate such service.

I see Forest's front three of Robertson, Withe and Tony Wood-

cock as their strongest department. If they can find some holes in the Liverpool defence early on, it could be very interesting.

But the more I think about it, the more I have to go for Liverpool. When all the possibilities have been exhausted, and strengths and weaknesses been explored, that so vital asset of experience could be the deciding factor.

With respect to the Anfield men, I hope I'm wrong because I want to see Forest lift the Cup.

Join me again in a fortnight.

Andy Green



MATCHDAY



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LEAGUE CUP FINAL LIVERPOOL v NOTTINGHAM FOREST Saturday, March 18th

SATURDAY'S Final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest promises to be a classic of a match. And the only certain outcome is the League Cup trophy will have a new name on it. Neither side has won it before.

Forest, THE team of this season, stand a chance of placing silverware on their sideboard for the first time since their F.A. Cup Final success in 1959.

For the European Champions, however, Cup Finals are nothing new to them. Over the past decade or so, the Anfield club have been in more — and won more — than any other English side.

Here we plot their paths to Wembley . . .

A'FOOTBALL FIRST'FOR BOTH FINALISTS

LIVERPOOL

SECOND ROUND

Liverpool 2, Chelsea 0 33,170

In the past, Liverpool have been renowned for their lack of interest in the League Cup, but this season they changed their mood, as Chelsea found out. The European Champions had quite an easy passage into the next round when they beat the Londoners with goals from Kenny Dalglish and Jimmy Case.

THIRD ROUND

Liverpool 2, Derby 0 30,400

Critics thought County might be able to force a replay and then possibly beat Liverpool, but once again the Reds came up with all the answers. Two goals from young David Fairclough were enough to take the Anfield club menacingly into Round Four.

FOURTH ROUND

Liverpool 2, Coventry 2 33,817

Coventry 0, Liverpool 2 (replay) 36,105

A third home draw for Liverpool, but this time they were shocked as Coventry were unfortunate not to win

at the first attempt. However, the Reds made no mistake in the replay at Highfield Road. Once again, the goalscoring partnership of Case and Dalglish did the damage.

FIFTH ROUND

Wrexham 1, Liverpool 3 25,641

In appallingly heavy conditions, Kenny Dalglish grabbed a hat-trick to end the brave hopes of Third Division Wrexham at the Racecourse.

Drawing 1-1 at half-time, the superior skill and fitness of Liverpool were enough to ensure they reached the Semi-Finals for the first time in their history.

SEMI-FINALS

Liverpool 2, Arsenal 1 44,764

Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0 49,561

(Liverpool won 2-1 on aggregate)

A goal from former Gunner Ray Kennedy in the last ten minutes, after Dalglish had equalised a Malcolm Macdonald goal, gave Liverpool a slender 2-1 lead in the first-leg at Anfield. 'Pool drew on all their courage and character for the return in London and their vast European experience at defending small leads was enough to shut Arsenal out.



LEFT . . . Forest's Ian Bowyer stoops to score against Bury. BELOW . . . Peter Withe (number 9) on the mark in the Semis v. Leeds.



NOTTINGHAM FOREST

SECOND ROUND

Forest 5, West Ham 0 18,224

From the beginning there was only one possible result — a convincing win for Brian Clough and his merry men. The foundations were being laid for a highly-successful run culminating in a Wembley appearance. Martin O'Neill, Ian Bowyer (two), Tony Woodcock and Peter Withe were the goalscoring heroes as The Hammers were themselves hammered by a very lively, confident Forest side.

THIRD ROUND

Forest 4, Notts County 0 26,931

Local rivals County were the next lambs to be led to the slaughter. They were completely demoralised, particularly in the second-half, when Forest ran riot. Scorers were John Robertson, Woodcock and Bowyer (2). Nottingham was a city of gloom and joy that night.

FOURTH ROUND

Forest 4, Aston Villa 2 29,333

Even League Cup-holders Aston Villa were unable to offer much resistance to the League leaders. Forest led 4-0 at one stage in the second-half — with

goals from Larry Lloyd, Viv Anderson, Withe and Woodcock — before Villa pegged two back through Brian Little and Frank Carrodus.

FIFTH ROUND

Bury 0, Forest 3 21,500

Bury, conquerors of West Brom in the previous round, could not have hoped to live with the rampant Forest. Their fears were proved right when they were outclassed all-round at Gigg Lane. Goals number 14, 15 and 16 of this season's competition for Forest came from Bowyer, O'Neill and Robertson.

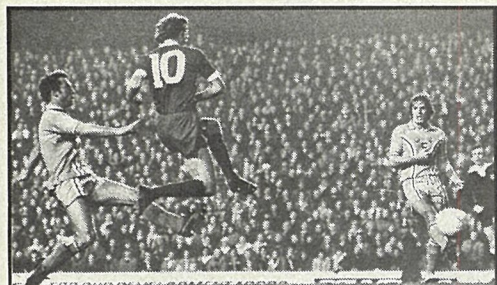
SEMI-FINALS

Leeds 1, Forest 3 43,222

Forest 4, Leeds 2 38,131

(Forest won 7-3 on aggregate)

The easy way in which Clough's Forest knocked Leeds out of the Cup in the Semis suggests a spectacular Final is in prospect. Nottingham went to Elland Road in the first-leg and shocked everyone with their exciting brand of football, to win comfortably 3-1. The hard work had been done, and all Forest were concerned with in the return was avoiding defeat, which they did with a 4-2 home win. Withe, Bowyer, O'Neill and Woodcock were the scorers.



LEFT . . . Fairclough (number 10) races in to score v. Coventry. BELOW . . . Ray Kennedy hits the goal that sent Liverpool to Wembley.





DALGLISH AIMS FOR THE DOUBLE

LIVERPOOL'S Kenny Dalglish has already tasted League Cup glory in Scotland. With Celtic, he was rarely out of the race for honours and the Glasgow club have had a monopoly on Scottish League Cup Finals in recent years — they will be appearing in their 14th consecutive one against Rangers. But the 27-year-old international knows Saturday's clash with Forest will probably be more difficult than anything he faced

in his homeland. Forest are the team of the season, whatever may happen to them, and neutral fans will be cheering for Cloughie's team at Wembley. Dalglish has been a hit with a capital H since his £440,000 transfer last year. He's scored six League Cup goals so far this season, including a hat-trick against Wrexham. A goal or two at Wembley would be Double welcome for Dalglish and Liverpool.

SHOOT!

FOCUS ON



John Robertson

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

FULL NAME: John Robertson
BIRTHPLACE: Uddingston, Scotland
BIRTHDATE: 20th January, 1953
HEIGHT: 5ft 7½ins
WEIGHT: 11st 10lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: No
CAR: Viva
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Liam Brady and Kenny Dalglish
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Glasgow Rangers
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Pedro Richards of Notts County
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: v. Derby this season. We won 3-0
BIGGEST THRILL: Getting promoted
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not winning Second Division Championship
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Israel
FAVOURITE FOOD: Italian
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Records, films and tennis
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Gardening and washing my car
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: When The Boat Comes In
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Bryan Ferry and Jeff Lynne
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood, Robert Shaw and Jodie Foster
BEST FRIEND: Dave Serella of Walsall
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Brian Clough
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Not playing well
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy and to make money
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play for Scotland and win the First Division Championship
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Don't know
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Clint Eastwood

John Robertson



Liverpool captain, Emlyn Hughes, has played many great games at Wembley, at club and international level

'IT WILL BE A BIG TEST OF CHARACTER'

LIVERPOOL skipper Emlyn Hughes is always forthright and to the point in expressing his opinions — and he makes no secret of the fact he thinks the Anfield club faces a tremendous tussle in the League Cup Final against Nottingham Forest.

"They are the best side we've met this season," says Emlyn. "They are sound right through, and Peter Withe, Tony Woodcock and John Robertson are brilliant."

"Both teams have their share of commitments between now and May and there is pressure from League and Cup games. It will be a big test of character for the players, and it will be interesting to see how Forest stand up to it."

"For Liverpool, it's another Final we are involved in. If we lose it, and eventually finish up with nothing this season, we will be looked upon as failures. This is due to the high standards which we've set during the last few years — other clubs would think they had done well to have progressed so far."

In the past, the League Cup has been a trophy which had little significance for Liverpool, or the Anfield fans — it has been described as a "Comic Cuts Cup" by Kopites, something Merseysiders weren't particularly anxious to see in the Anfield trophy room.

But there has been a change of heart by Liverpool about the League Cup, and Emlyn Hughes gives the reason for it.

"Our early dismissal from the F.A. Cup meant we had one trophy less to compete for — and this made us more aware of the importance of the League Cup. If we can win it, it will compensate us for being knocked out of the other competition."

"And we have come back into form just at the right time, for the vital finishing part of the season and for the League Cup Final. The confidence of the team was given a great boost beginning with our League win over Manchester United at Anfield, followed by the European Cup victory against Benfica in Lisbon."

"Before that, our spirits had dropped a little, and we were below our best. But now, Forest can expect to find us at peak form for the Final — and with both teams capable of good attacking football, there could be a few goals scored. It could be that half-a-

dozen could be netted in the 90 minutes."

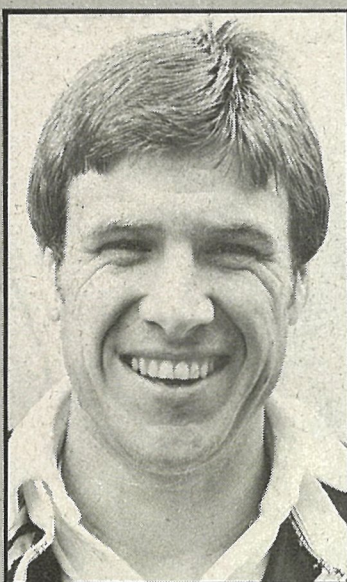
And while Emlyn sees the possibility of plenty of goalmouth action, he also has the feeling it will be a clean match.

"Neither Forest nor ourselves are dirty," he says. "The emphasis will almost certainly be on skill, and both teams have their share of that."

"This year, of course, Liverpool will be going to Wembley without Kevin Keegan — but fortunately for us, we've a player who has managed to fill his place. This is Kenny Dalglish, a great player."

"Kevin was an idol at Liverpool, and the job of filling his shoes was a tremendous one — I doubt whether anybody could have done it as well as Kenny. And mention of players reminds me of the form Tommy Smith has shown this season — he can't be praised highly enough."

"With men like this in the side,



it's only natural I have a lot of faith in what we can achieve, and I believe the Final against Forest will be a cracker."

In the Benfica game, Hughes scored an important second goal for Liverpool — and although Emlyn isn't threatening to score against Nottingham Forest at Wembley, it's certainly not impossible.

"I usually notch one or two goals a season, but maybe I've had my quota for this one," he jokes.

But the Liverpool and England captain is serious when making his final evaluation of the duel between the Merseysiders and Brian Clough's men.

"We go into every match to win, and this one is no exception. I take us to come out on top after a gruelling contest — and as an extra incentive, we know victory will give us the League Cup for the first time in our history and a U.E.F.A. Cup place next season."



Liverpool defence under pressure against Arsenal at Highbury in the Semi-Finals.



**Forest 'keeper, Chris Woods —
standing-in for Cup-tied Peter Shilton —
has never been to Wembley,
even as a spectator**

'I JUST HOPE I'M NOT TOO NERVOUS'

Chris Woods cuts out an aerial threat during Forest's League Cup win v. Aston Villa.



GOALKEEPER Chris doesn't expect to make another first team appearance after Saturday's League Cup Final against Liverpool at Wembley — even if he plays a blinder.

When the Nottingham Forest teenager disappears down the Wembley tunnel — hopefully with a winners' tankard in his hand — he'll be going back to obscurity.

Woods, 18, finds himself playing in a Wembley Final BEFORE making his League debut, because Peter Shilton is Cup-tied. And no matter how much impressive rolling about he does on the famous turf, he knows he'll be back in the Central League side next week.

The youngster regards the whole League Cup run as a bonus in a season in which he had no hopes of replacing Shilton.

He says: "It takes some believing I'm going to Wembley but whatever happens, it's sure to be a great day.

"I've never even been there before, and I always said I'd like to make my first visit as a player. Until this season, that was really just a dream.

"Now it has come true, I intend to make the most of it. I just hope I'm not too nervous. I was jittery in the second-leg of the Semi-Final against Leeds until the game really got going. It's bound to be even worse at Wembley.

"With luck on the day, things should turn out okay. An early touch would be a help."

Woods would never have ended up at the City Ground if it hadn't been for former Forest youth coach Alan Hill.

He was set to sign as an apprentice with Derby County as a 16-year-old but Hill, then at the Baseball Ground, was on his way to Nottingham and asked the kid to make the journey with him.

Woods followed ex-Forest goalkeeper John Middleton into the England youth team. And a League Cup Final winners' tankard would round off a fantastic first season as a full professional.

When Woods asked his manager if it was all right to be interviewed on television after the Leeds triumph, Brian Clough retorted: "Yes, but be careful what you say — I haven't picked the team for Wembley yet."

Despite that, the youngster knew he'd be on duty in the Final because the only other 'keeper at Forest is 16-year-old apprentice Steve Sutton.

Far from being envious of Shilton, who could only be forced out of his regular first team spot by injury, Woods is full of praise for the goalkeeper many believe the best in the world.

He says: "He has been a great help to me. He tells me what to do. I'd be a mug not to take the advice of someone like him.

"I used to stay on my line and wait for things to come at me, but Peter has been encouraging me to be more positive. Through the League Cup run and his help, I've become a better player."

The rest of the team have also helped the quiet youngster to perform so admirably in the big Cup match atmosphere on the road to Wembley.

"They've been really good to me. I was shattered when I let in a soft goal against Aston Villa, but they told me to forget about it and just get on with the game. I took their advice and we came through okay.

"I don't mind going back to the Central League after playing at Wembley. I regard this League Cup business as a bonus, that's all."

He doesn't wilt at the thought of facing a striker like £440,000 Kenny Dalglish. He'll make the most of it because it will probably be his final taste of the big time this season.

There are only two things that can keep him in the Forest first team line up after Saturday — an injury to Shilton or a League Cup Final replay.

'EXPERIENCE

RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer



'Kenny Dalglish's first appearance at Wembley for Liverpool was in the Charity Shield'

the European Cup in Rome last June he immediately cracked: "The League Cup — it's the only domestic honour we've yet to get our hands on."

Many a true word is spoken in jest!

It isn't as though we've had a particularly easy passage to Wembley. Playing Arsenal, London's most improved side, over two-legs in the Semi-Final, was a very difficult hurdle for us.

But our most hard-to-beat opponents were Coventry City, in the Fourth Round, who held us to a hard-fought 2-2 draw at Anfield and took us to a replay at Highfield Road, where they had established a fine record since the start of the season.

We were fortunate in scoring after five minutes — Jimmy Case netted — and needed all our experience, skill and character to hold a spirited Coventry, encouraged by roars from a 36,000-plus crowd. A second goal, from Kenny Dalglish in the 75th minute, finally put paid to their attempts to equalise.

Our fellow Finalists, Nottingham Forest, sailed through their Semi-Final games with Leeds, winning 3-1 at Elland Road and 4-2 in the return at the City Ground.

They confounded those sceptics who believed Forest would struggle as soon as regular first team men dropped out and were replaced by reserves. Chris Woods, Ian Bowyer and Frank Clark came in for the Cup-tied Archie Gemmill, Peter Shilton and Dave Needham and



BECAUSE Liverpool have never progressed beyond the Quarter-Finals in previous seasons, there was a widely-held belief we put a low priority on winning the League Cup — that we were more concerned with going for other honours we regarded as more prestigious.

I've even heard it referred to as "The Mickey Mouse Cup!"

To some extent it's true we at one time placed winning the League Cup bottom of our list, but since the introduction of two factors we've been as keen as everyone else.

When all League clubs were brought into the competition, and

the winners granted a place in the following season's U.E.F.A. Cup competition.

The chance to qualify for Europe as early as March is very appealing.

It's a comforting thought you could be guaranteed a place in Europe even if things go wrong for you in other competitions that carry qualification.

I've been to Wembley many times with Liverpool — in Charity Shield games and F.A. Cup Finals — and it's a novel experience so early in the second-half of the season.

An ironic aspect of our reaching the Final is when Stevie Heighway was asked to pinpoint our objectives for this season after winning

Points count

Has any club ever won the Football League Championship with more points than goals?

LEE TOULSON, STOCKTON

● Yes, Lee, Leeds did just that in 1968-69 — with a First Division record of 67 points, but only 66 goals.

Four other clubs have been Champions in lower Divisions in similar circumstances.

Three were in the Second Division — Nottingham Forest in 1921-22 (56 points; 51 goals); Notts County in 1922-23 (53 points; 46 goals); and Birmingham in 1947-48 (59 points; 55 goals).

The other was Gillingham in Division Four in 1963-64 (60 points; 59 goals).

Hat-trick for Stan

I know the great Stan Matthews mainly laid-on goals for others, but my friends says he once scored a hat-trick for England. Is this true?

VICTOR BOBO, HORLEY

● Quite true, Victor. It was in a thrill-packed 5-4 victory over Czechoslovakia at Tottenham on 1st December, 1927 — and, what's more, he scored them all with his so-called "useless" left foot!

Matthews only scored 11 goals in his 54 full peacetime internationals — and five of them came in his six games that 1937-38 season.

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Non-stop Spurs

Is it true Spurs won all their first 11 League games in their 1960-61 "Double" season? If so, who did they beat?

PAUL GURAJDOWSKI, MILTON KEYNES

● You are correct Paul — and, what's more, it's a record start to a season by any Football League club.

Spurs' victims — who presented them with those 22 points out of the first 22 — were Everton (2-0), Blackpool (3-1), Manchester Utd. (4-1), Bolton (3-1), and Aston Villa (6-2) at home.

Away, Spurs beat Blackpool (3-1), Blackburn (4-1), Bolton (2-1), Arsenal

ON OUR SIDE'

blended superbly.

This supplies the key to the success of manager Brian Clough and his assistant, Peter Taylor. It's a team effort, with each member carrying out a clearly-defined role.

Even so, they have several players I shall be particularly watching out for. Tony Woodcock, blessed with superb close control and the ability to finish a move in devastating fashion. John Robertson, the Scottish winger who never seems to have a quiet game and can cause havoc in an opposing defence. Peter Withe, a player who has been around with several clubs without making a big impact, and is making up for lost time now. Peter, like his other partners in attack, never stops grafting from first whistle to last, and is always posing problems. But they never try to grab the limelight, and put the team above personal glory.

Trophies

The same system has stood us in good stead at Liverpool and brought us a string of trophies — and with a bit of that precious Cup luck will ensure that we do a lap of honour with the League Cup trophy for the first time in Liverpool's history.

Experience can be a telling factor in Finals. After a week of building-up to the big moment when a player steps out on to the Wembley turf, the tension can be so overpowering it drains the nervous system and saps the energy.

To most of the Forest players, especially the stand-ins, the ordeal is something they have never sampled before — a completely new happening.

Because we at Liverpool are no strangers to the big occasion, we should have the advantage and be able to settle down more quickly.

We've all played at Wembley several times, at club and country level.

For Kenny Dalglish it will be his second visit with Liverpool — his first was in the Charity Shield game, this season's "curtain-raiser", when we drew with Manchester United, who had beaten us 2-1 in the F.A. Cup Final in May.

Kenny already possesses a League Cup winner's medal — a Scottish one, won with his previous club Celtic — and he's dead keen to collect the English equivalent. A "double" few other players can surely boast of doing!

I call this a fans' Final. The fact it takes place at the same time as a full League programme — and isn't an event socialites regard as being one they must be seen at — means the crowd consists mainly of supporters from the two clubs involved.

Which certainly adds to the fervent, carnival-like atmosphere.

Last season's Final, between Everton and Aston Villa, was a disappointment — partly because both teams failed to hit form, but mainly due to it ending in a nil-nil draw.

Coming to London was expensive enough for fans — and anyone who also went to the two replays, at Hillsborough and Old Trafford, must have spent a packet.

The eventual winners — Aston Villa — must have felt a sense of

anti-climax when they collected their medals. Nothing can compare with climbing up those steps to Wembley's Royal Box!

Which is what we hope to do on Saturday.

And on the Sunday I'm looking forward to the big night of the year for all players — the presentation of awards at the Professional Footballers' Association dinner at the Hilton Hotel, London.

Unless the boss, Bob Paisley, wants us back for training for a rearranged mid-week game, or my pregnant wife, Vee, is about to give birth, I shall put in my first-ever attendance at the function.

As you probably know, it's then the P.F.A. "Player of the Year", "Young Player of the Year" and the Divisional "Teams of the Year" are announced and presentations made.

Villa's eventual goal-hero Brian Little on the ball during last season's first clash against Everton at Wembley.



'Last season's Final was a disappointment — especially for fans'

Every player registers his votes several weeks beforehand — he's not allowed to vote for team-mates — and the results of the poll are secret until the dinner.

My vote for "Player of the Year" went to Manchester City and England "B" keeper, Joe Corrigan, whom I admire not only for his skill but his strength of character.

A few seasons ago, Big Joe — and he was big, too, very much overweight — was unpopular with the Maine Road fans: playing poorly, and on the verge of being given a free transfer to Swansea.

Things looked really bad for him. But he went on a severe diet, slimmed down, worked hard at his game, and is now a firm favourite with City fans and in the front rank of Europe's "number ones".

Unfortunately, I don't think Joe will get most votes. My tip for "P.O.Y." is Archie Gemmill of Forest and Scotland.

Another Forest player got my vote for "Young Player of the Year" — Tony Woodcock, whose praises I've already sung. I wouldn't be surprised if he gets the award — to compensate him for receiving only a loser's medal the day before!

Originally I intended voting for West Brom's Derek Statham, but changed my mind at the last minute. However, he earns a place in my Division One team: Joe Corrigan, John Gidman, Derek Statham, Gordon McQueen, Ray Wilkins, Kenny Burns, Steve Coppell, Trevor Francis, Bob Latchford, Tony Woodcock and Liam Brady.

Obviously I don't expect that line-up to be chosen — there's bound to be at least one Liverpool player — but I don't expect to be far out.

If you can't get to the Final, go along and support your local team. Football needs you.

Ray Clemence

(3-2), Leicester (2-1), and Wolves (4-0).

Their winning ways were finally halted when Manchester City drew 1-1 at White Hart Lane on 10th October. But the first away check didn't come until they lost 1-2 at Sheffield Wednesday on 12th November.

Celtic tops

Could you tell me the outcome when Leeds and Celtic met in a European Cup Semi-Final a few years ago?

ALEX WATTS,
DUBLIN

● It was in the 1969-70 season, Alex, and Celtic won both legs — 1-0 away, and then 2-1 at home.

But the Scots went down 1-2 in extra-time to Feyenoord in the Final.

SHORT PASSES

● Leeds' record home gate is 57,892 (v. Sunderland, F.A. Cup Fifth Round replay, 15th March, 1967).

(PAUL SHRIMPTON, Portsmouth)

● Graham Paddon played four League games for Coventry, 162 for Norwich, and 115 for West Ham, before returning to Norwich in November, 1976.

(WENDY KNOWLES, Southampton)

● Duncan McKenzie didn't play for

Leeds in the 1975 European Cup Final against Bayern Munich.

(STEPHEN STANLEY, Stamford)

● Chelsea's 21-0 win (8-0 away; 13-0 home) over Jeunesse Hautcharage in the Cup-Winners' Cup in 1971-72 is a European record.

(ANDREW KINSELLE, Derby)

● Kevin Keegan scored 68 goals in his 230 First Division games for Liverpool.

(NORRIE GRAHAM, Perthshire)

● Bobby Charlton, with 49 goals in his 106 full internationals, is England's record scorer.

(STEPHEN BOYD, Belfast)

All level

Which Football League club has played the most draws in a single season?

KEVIN GREENHEAD,
SWANLEY

● Tranmere hold that record, Kevin — sharing the spoils in 22 of their 46 Third Division games in 1970-71. But exactly half a century earlier, in 1920-21, Plymouth actually had a higher percentage of draws — 50 per cent — with 21 out of their 42 Third Division fixtures ending all-square.

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

WHY ARE SO MANY

SHOOT
pinpoints a disturbing trend that if it continues could seriously damage our great game

SOCCER administrators throughout the country need to wage war against troublemakers on and off the pitch who are responsible for thousands of referees quitting early.

A few years ago, an assault on a soccer referee was national, front page news. Today, alas, it is an all too frequent occupational hazard.

In the first three months after the Referees' Association, with their new full-time secretary Owen Venning, began logging and counting every case reported to them, there were 20 serious incidents, so it is hardly surprising that so many referees are crying "enough is enough".

County Football Associations have been clamping down in many areas with heavy fines and sine-die suspensions, but quite clearly this is not enough and the time has come when stringent action must also be taken against clubs if one of their officials or a player is found guilty of assaulting a referee.

Naturally abuse and general aggravation is not the only cause for referees retiring before normal age limits are reached. Quite a few become disenchanted when they realise they are not going to make it to the top of the refereeing structure.



KEN RIDDEN

At the same time, a Football Association survey this season has discovered that in many areas the referee wastage has now reached alarming proportions.

London has lost 226 of last season's referees and the new intake has left them almost five per cent down overall, so their recruitment officer, Fred Bateson, has written to the F.A. saying: "we are now desperately short of new pupils and men to run the coaching centres." He has also written to London's Football League clubs asking them to advertise for

recruits in their programmes.

In Lancashire, more than 25 per cent of referees attached to the county a year ago have quit before normal retirement, 266 out of 1,093 and there the overall deficit is ten per cent.

Ken Ridden, the F.A.'s National Training Officer for Referees, admits "discipline is certainly a factor," but Venning, a former Football League linesman, goes much farther.

"You can put the problem down to four things — abuse, bad behaviour, bad language and a growing number of assaults. There was even one case where a referee was not only attacked by supporters during the match but again when he was on his way to his car later.

"One referee in London was in hospital and off work for more than a month after being hit over the head by a corner-flag. All the aver-

One of our leading officials, TONY GLASSON, replies:

'THREATS, ABUSE—AND PEOPLE'S IGNORANCE OF THE LAWS'

AT A recent survey carried out it was suggested there were around 5,000 referees short of the required number to officiate in League and Cup games every Saturday. Here in my home town of Salisbury, we've had 12 resignations so far this season, and this is out of 60. Alarming, isn't it? Their reasons — abuse, mainly. Why should they go to a game to get shouted at, threatened with physi-

cal violence, told what would happen to them if they showed up again that season, telephone calls to their homes threatening their families, in some cases damaging their cars at the ground and outside their homes.

It doesn't matter how devoted you are to the game, there comes a point of no return! It now means at least six games in our District go without a referee each week.

What makes a man take up refereeing? Generally he's had a good footballing life and he wants to put back into the game some of his pleasures he's received from it, or maybe someone persuaded him to take a referee course, and he's passed, and thought to himself — "Why not? There's every chance of refereeing professionally in a few years — a chance to go to Wembley?"

It's certainly not the money — a pound note generally for a 90 minute local game, plus all the time and travelling, or perhaps, simply, it's a hobby, as it is for most of us. And when that hobby is abused some of us say: "To hell with it, I'm not going to take it any longer. I'll watch it in the comfort of the stand."

But generally, this would be the reaction from referees who are not



REFS QUITTING?

age referee wants is to enjoy a game of football, but there is so much aggravation."

What greatly irks referees is the uninformed, often unfair media criticism of referees, especially on television which they feel weakens confidence in them through all levels of the game, not least on the local park.

They are upset, too, by the irresponsible attitude of some club officials and the way all too often when the time comes for the disciplinary hearing, they are made to feel as if THEY are in the dock.

Comments from two referees who have given up during this present season, underline the deep fears which the build-up of aggravation can cause.

Lack of protection especially for linesmen on totally open grounds, prompted one to say: "I live in constant fear of the day when someone, either an official or

player, is going to be killed." Another commented: "Sunday afternoon is the worst time. You often find one or two players have spent a couple of hours in the pub before turning out, and then they are in no mood to accept a decision which goes against them."

The trouble, which stems from the general breakdown of discipline in so many areas of life, is not just a British problem. Holland, France and West Germany face the same crisis.

It is estimated there are 25,000 referees in Britain, every one of whom is essential to the efficient running of the sport, even though only just over 100 at any one time can reach the peak — a place on the Football League.

Referees are used to having their parentage challenged and their eyesight queried. Now, however, good-natured banter has too often been replaced by vicious verbal or even physical attack. Lack of emotional control can destroy, in 90 minutes, a referee career which has taken several years to develop.

The tragedy is refereeing, on trouble-free days, can still be a most satisfying experience. But unless the present climate changes — which will only happen with punitive F.A. measures, supported



All referees aim to officiate in a Cup Final

in the courts, the basic fabric of football will ultimately crumble.

So far the damage has only been at grass roots level, but fewer referees available in the lower

levels will inevitably lead eventually to a lowering of standards at the top — at a time when we need greater vigilance from referees than ever before.

and even then, 99 times out of a hundred their decisions are proved to be correct. Remember a referee makes a decision in a split-second, and for most of us, we only have to do that to avoid an accident!

It has been suggested fewer referees at the base will lead to a reduction of quality at the top. In answer to that I believe we have the best referees in the world officiating on the English League today, and the new referees who take their place, when they retire, will continue to be the best in the land. Let me give you a few reasons why.

It generally takes "an above-average referee" about four years to obtain Class One status, and then he's placed on the Linesman's List of a professional League

where he will generally serve another three years, before he's promoted on to the Referees' List. This is his basic apprenticeship. Here he would expect to serve about two years before he's considered good enough to be placed on the Linesman's List of the Football League, and even though he's on this list, he still has to referee on his professional League.

"These are the Northern or Southern Leagues, The Football Combination, Western League, to name but a few, and you won't find many easy games.

Then, in about another four years, he would be considered for the Football League Supplementary List, which means he will referee about ten games, and line at the latter end of the season for about 14 games.

Generally, he's then got two years to make the grade — "The Full List of Football League Referees". This is the ultimate aim of all referees. He's reached his "goal". But even then we have further aims, to be good enough to continue on the list, to improve our refereeing, to perhaps officiate at Wembley, be it on the line or in the middle, and most of us would give our right arms to get on that International List of Referees. I would!

So for most of us, it's taken 12 to 14 years to reach the "Full List" which consists of about 90 referees. Does this not suggest that these men, through promotion (which is gained through marks awarded by clubs on his performance all the way through

his career), are top referees?

So where is the solution? My personal belief is the Laws of the Game should be taught in the schools where football starts, or maybe a member of a football club could take a referee's course, and relay what he's learnt to his colleagues, or maybe local managers could meet with the Referee Societies and discuss points.

One thing is certain, the ardent football fan who emphatically supports a team will only see his side as potential winners. Sure he's going to argue and abuse anyone if he thinks his point of view is right, and query why the referee disallowed his side a "good goal"?

It all points back to knowledge of the Laws of the Game. Could clubs put into their programmes a half-page of problems and answers? SHOOT magazine does. How many people know you can't be offside from a goal-kick, corner, and throw-in?

How else can we stop abuse, etc? Perhaps players could help here. If they accepted the referee's decision *is final* (as they appear to do in Rugby), would this not stop dissent and arguing on the field, fewer cautions? And would this not, perhaps, help to show a small section of the hooligan element in the stadium, that authority is accepted, and reduce crowd problems?

Remember, the only thing you, the player and/or fan, is going to get from me and my colleagues is FAIRNESS and HONESTY. Couldn't the compliment be returned? What happened to that old word, "Sportsmanship"?



in senior or professional Leagues. Although none of us like to be abused, most senior referees accept it as part of the game, and can choose to ignore it.

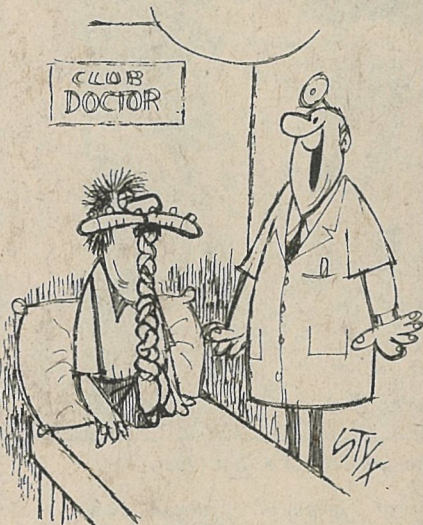
Physical assaults on referees are increasing slowly, but there aren't many when you think of the number of games played. Most players know if they assault a referee — they're banned from playing football for life, heavily fined by the County F.A., charged with assault by the police (which could lead to a prison sentence), compensation to the referee for loss of earnings, etc, which could involve hundreds of pounds. I believe if clubs reminded their players more often in respect of conduct to referees, we would see a decline in this side of the game.

Television playbacks — this really only affects the top referees,

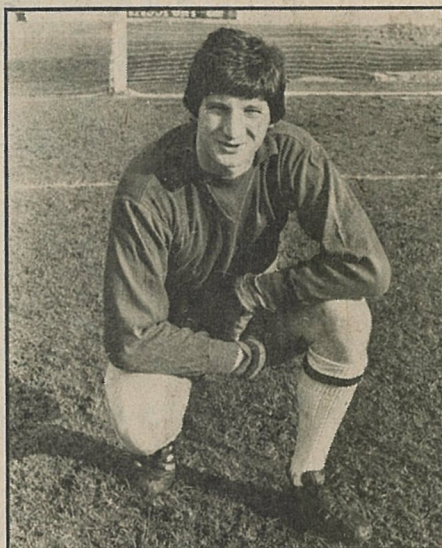


Former League ref Gordon Hill in pain after being injured.

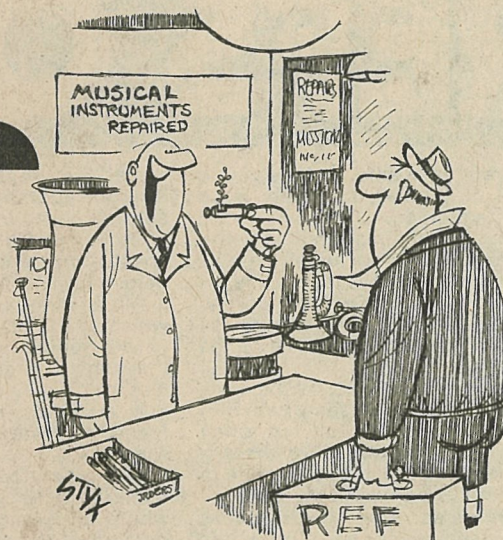
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Great stuff, son — never seen such a dribble in all my life"



This week St. Mirren 'keeper DONALD HUNTER selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



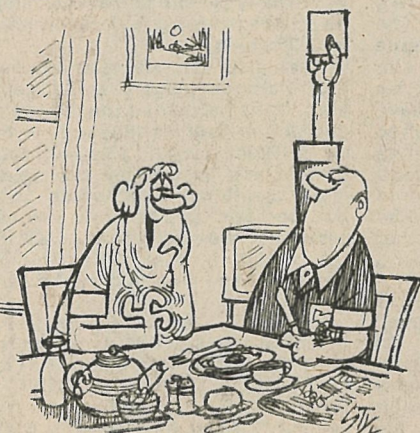
"It's all that blowing you do — you've germinated the pea"



"The only bird I ever get is from the fans"



"That was sheer magic — the way he beat five defenders — dribbled round their goalie — then ballooned it over the bar"



"Can't I ever contradict you — without being shown the yellow card?"

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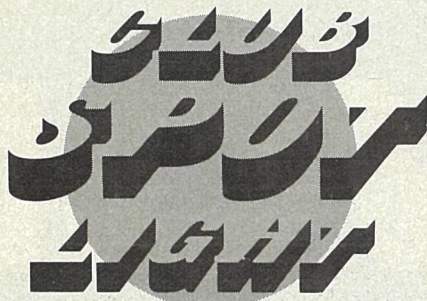
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Personal Callers Welcome



compiled by John Pyke

Wolves manager Sammy Chung (right) was a player with Headington United, Norwich, Reading and Watford. Sammy then made his name as a coach with Watford, Ipswich Town and finally Wolves, taking over the manager's seat when Bill McGarry left the club.



WOLVES will be satisfied if they succeed in consolidating their position in the First Division this season. Champions of the Second Division last term, they have been unable to get anywhere near matching the success of fellow promotion-travellers Nottingham Forest. The Molineux men are not completely safe from dropping back again, but if they survive there is plenty of hope for the future.

Wolves boss Sammy Chung paid out the club record fee of £150,000 when he signed England Under-21 goalkeeper Paul Bradshaw from Blackburn Rovers last September. But Wolves also have some fine youngsters coming into the side. One is Bob Hazell, a young centre-back who after only a handful of League games has excited people in the game.

The club sold two of their best-known strikers earlier this season: Alan Sunderland to Arsenal and Steve Kindon returning to Burnley. It left the main burden on John Richards to get the goals. He has done well but will welcome the support he will get from new signing Bill Rafferty from Carlisle United.

WOLVES

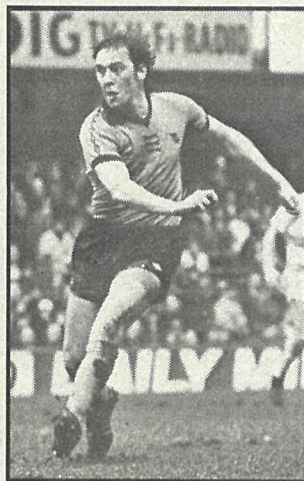
GROUND:
Molineux.
SIZE OF PITCH:
115 yards by 72 yards.
TELEPHONE No:
Wolverhampton 24053/4.

NICKNAME:
"Wolves".

COLOURS:
Gold shirts, black collar and cuffs, black diamonds on sleeves. Black shorts (gold and with diamonds), alternative gold (black diamonds), gold stockings.

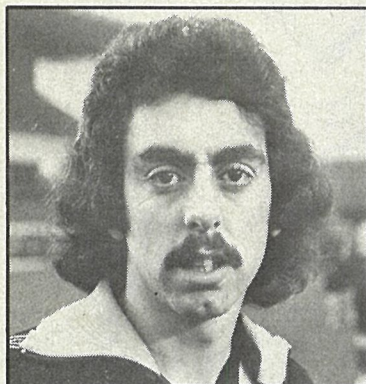
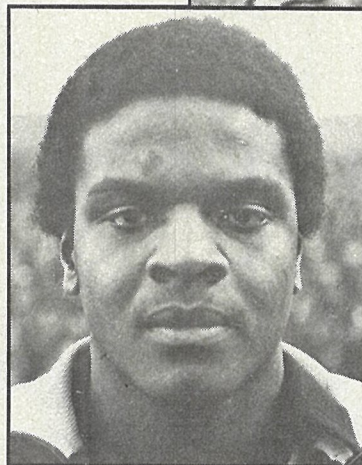
TOP LEAGUE SCORERS

1972-73 John Richards.....27
1973-74 Derek Dougan.....10
1974-75 Ken Hibbitt.....17
1975-76 John Richards.....17
1976-77 Ken Hibbitt.....16



ABOVE ... Norman Bell.
RIGHT ... Bob Hazell.

Midfielder Willie Carr (right).



RECORD VICTORY:
14-0 v Crosswell's Brewery, F.A. Cup, Second Round, 1886-87.

RECORD DEFEAT:
1-10 by Newton Heath, Division One, October 15th, 1892.

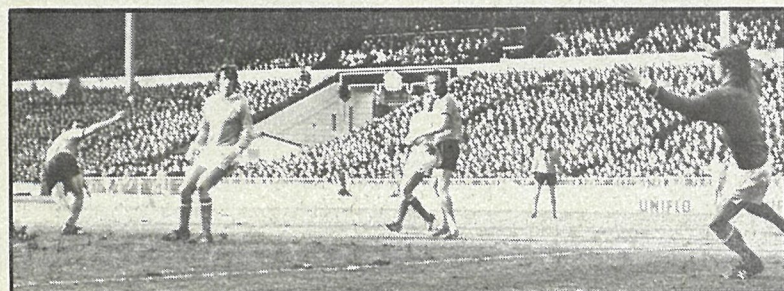
MOST LEAGUE POINTS IN A SEASON:

64 in Division One, 1957-58.

HIGHEST LEAGUE SCORER IN A SEASON:

Dennis Westcott, 37 in Division One, 1946-47.

LEFT ... Geoff Palmer. Kenny Hibbitt (below, left) scores for Wolves against Man. City in the 1974 League Cup Final.



THEIR RECORD SINCE 1960-61

(C—League Champions; P—Promoted; R—Relegated; W—Winners; F—Finalists; S/F—Semi-Finalists; Q/F—Quarter-Finalists; E—European Cup; CW—European Cup-Winners' Cup; U—U.E.F.A. or Fairs Cup; DNC—Did not compete)

SEASON	LEAGUE Division & Position	F.A. CUP Round Reached	LEAGUE CUP Round Reached	EUROPE Round Reached
1960-61	1—3rd	3rd	DNC	S/F (CW)
1961-62	1—18th	4th	DNC	DNC
1962-63	1—5th	3rd	DNC	DNC
1963-64	1—16th	3rd	DNC	DNC
1964-65	1—21st (R)	Q/F	DNC	DNC
1965-66	2—6th	5th	DNC	DNC
1966-67	2—2nd (P)	4th	3rd	DNC
1967-68	1—17th	3rd	2nd	DNC
1968-69	1—16th	4th	4th	DNC
1969-70	1—13th	3rd	4th	DNC
1970-71	1—4th	4th	2nd	DNC
1971-72	1—9th	3rd	2nd	F (U)
1972-73	1—5th	S/F	S/F	DNC
1973-74	1—12th	3rd	W	2nd (U)
1974-75	1—12th	3rd	2nd	1st (U)
1975-76	1—20th (R)	Q/F	4th	DNC
1976-77	2—1st (P)	Q/F	2nd	DNC
1977-78	1—	4th	2nd	DNC

Continued on page 22.

WOL



BACK ROW (left to right): Kevin Walters (coaching staff), Colin Brazier, George Berry, John McAlle, Derek Parkin, Phil Parkes, Gary Pierce, Steve Daley, Geoff Palmer, Frank Munro (now Celtic), Brian Owen (coaching staff).
MIDDLE ROW: Steve Kindon (now Burnley).

LIVES



Martin Patching, John Richards, Sammy Chung (manager), Alan Sunderland (now Arsenal), Bobby Gould (now Bristol Rovers), Norman Bell.
FRONT ROW: Willie Carr, John Farley, Maurice Daly, Kenny Todd, James Kelly, Kenny Hibbitt.

SHOOT!



continued

PEN-PICTURES

(L. App.—League Appearances; G.—Goals; S.—Substitutes; All records to end of December, 1977)

NORMAN BELL: Striker who has been a regular scorer in the Central League. Signed professional in November, 1973. Born Sunderland. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 12.10. L. App.—20 and 4 sub. G.—8.

PAUL BRADSHAW: England Under-21 international signed from Blackburn in September, 1977 when Wolves smashed their transfer record fee to pay £150,000 for him. Born Altrincham. Ht. 6.2½. Wt. 12.1. L. App.—Blackburn 78, Wolves 16.

COLIN BRAZIER: Young centre-back signed professional in September, 1975. Born Birmingham. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.0. L. App.—9.

WILLIE CARR: Midfielder signed for £100,000 from Coventry City in March, 1975. A superb schemer with six full Scottish caps. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.7¾. Wt. 10.4. L. App.—Coventry 245 and 5 sub, Wolves 100 and 3 sub. G.—Coventry 32, Wolves 15.

STEVE DALEY: Midfielder signed professional in June, 1971. Steve scored 13 goals as Wolves won promotion last season and was an ever-present in the League side. Born Barnsley. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 12.0. L. App.—133 and 20 sub. G.—26.

MAURICE DALY: Sturdy defender who has been in the Republic of Ireland squads. Signed professional in July, 1973. Born Dublin. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 9.10. L. App.—20 and 1 sub.

HOW TO GET TO MOLINEUX

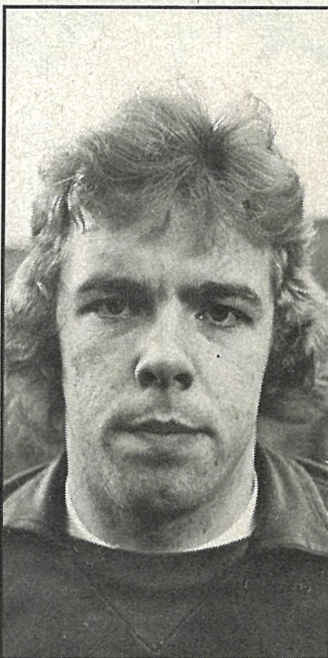
The ground is within easy walking distance of both the town centre and Wolverhampton High Level railway station. Because of this the local bus company does not run special bus services on match days.

IF YOU TRAVEL BY CAR

Parking is available around "The West Park" and in various side streets. Parking is also available at the Molineux Park Hotel (a small charge is made).

MELVYN EVES: Striker who after an impressive scoring record in the Central League this season was given his League debut v Ipswich Town on November 26th, 1977. Signed professional in July, 1975. Born Wednesbury. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.9. L. App.—4.

JOHN FARLEY: Winger who was signed from Watford for £40,000 in May, 1974. Born Stockton. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 9.12. L. App.—Watford 96 and 8 sub, Halifax (loan) 6, Blackpool (loan) 1, Wolves 34 and 5 sub. G.—Watford 8, Halifax (loan) 3.



Paul Bradshaw (above) cost the club £150,000. John Richards (below, right) scores his first goal of the season v. Q.P.R.

BOB HAZELL: Dominating central defender who has won a regular place in the League side since making his debut at Newcastle on December 16th, 1977. Signed professional in May, 1977. Born Jamaica. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 12.3. L. App.—4.

KENNY HIBBITT: Midfielder signed from Bradford Park Avenue in November, 1968 for £5,000. Was top League scorer for Wolves when they won promotion last season with 16 League goals. Born Bradford. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.4. L. App.—Bradford P.A. 13 and 3 sub, Wolves 260 and 11 sub. G.—Wolves 61.

JIMMY KELLY: Midfielder or striker whose favourite position is on the wing. Signed professional in December, 1971. Born Aldergrove (N. Ireland). Ht. 5.6. Wt. 10.2. L. App.—Wrexham (loan) 4, Wolves 16 and 2 sub.

JOHN McALLE: Defender who signed professional in February, 1967 after being groomed through the youth teams. Despite his many League appearances, John was still waiting for his first League goal as we went to press. Born Liverpool. Ht. 5.11¼. Wt. 11.4. L. App.—Wolves 313 and 13 sub.

GEOFF PALMER: Defender who signed professional in August, 1972. An England Under-23 international who was an ever-present in Wolves promotion side. Born Cannock. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.5. L. App.—148. G.—4.

DEREK PARKIN: Defender signed for £80,000 from Huddersfield Town in February, 1968. England Under-23 international. Born Newcastle. Ht.

5.8½. Wt. 11.0. L. App.—Huddersfield 60 and 1 sub, Wolves 360. G.—Huddersfield 1, Wolves 6.

MARTIN PATCHING: Hard-working midfielder signed professional in March, 1976. Born Rotherham. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.6. L. App.—46 and 7 sub. G.—6.

BILL RAFFERTY: Striker who cost £125,000 when signed from Carlisle United in March, 1978. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.7. L. App.—Coventry 27, Blackpool 35 and 1 sub, Plymouth 89 and 1 sub, Carlisle 65. G.—Coventry 3, Blackpool 9, Plymouth 35, Carlisle 26.

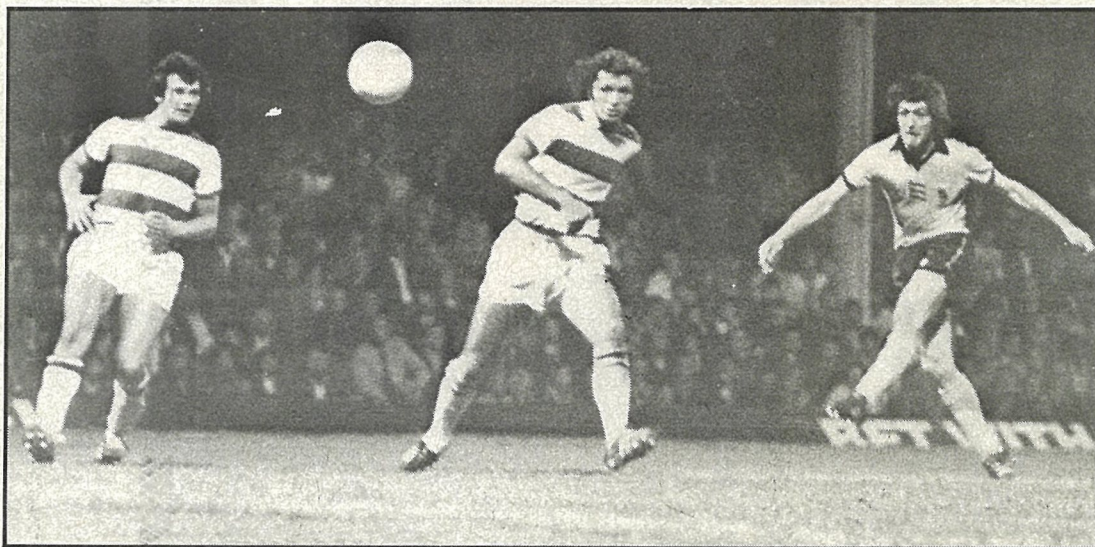
JOHN RICHARDS: Striker signed professional in July, 1969. An England international with one full cap. Scored his 100th League goal for Wolves earlier this season. Born Warrington. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.1. L. App.—230 and 13 sub. G.—105.

LEAGUE FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
Aug			
20	Bristol C.....	A	3-2
23	Q.P.R.....	H	1-0
27	Arsenal.....	H	1-1
Sept			
3	Everton.....	A	0-0
10	Nottm. For.....	H	2-3
17	W.B.A.....	A	2-2
23	Aston Villa.....	A	0-2
Oct			
1	Leicester C.....	H	3-0
4	Derby Co.....	H	1-2
8	Norwich C.....	A	1-2
15	West Ham.....	H	2-2
22	Man. City.....	A	2-0
29	Coventry C.....	H	1-3
Nov			
5	Birmingham C.....	A	1-2
12	Newcastle U.....	H	1-0
19	Middlesbrough.....	A	0-0
26	Ipswich T.....	H	0-0
Dec			
3	Man. United.....	A	1-3
10	Chelsea.....	H	1-3
17	Newcastle U.....	A	0-4
26	Leeds U.....	H	3-1
27	Liverpool.....	A	0-1
31	Q.P.R.....	A	3-1
Jan			
2	Bristol C.....	H	0-0
14	Arsenal.....	A	1-3
21	Everton.....	H	3-1
Feb			
4	Nottm. For.....	A	0-2
25	Leicester C.....	A	0-1
Mar			
4	Norwich C.....	H	3-3
11	West Ham.....	A	
18	Man. City.....	H	
25	Liverpool.....	H	
27	Leeds U.....	A	
28	Coventry C.....	A	
Apr			
1	Birmingham C.....	H	
8	Ipswich T.....	A	
15	Middlesbrough.....	H	
22	Chelsea.....	A	
26	Derby Co.....	A	
29	Man. United.....	H	

W.B.A. (h) and Aston Villa (h) to be arranged.

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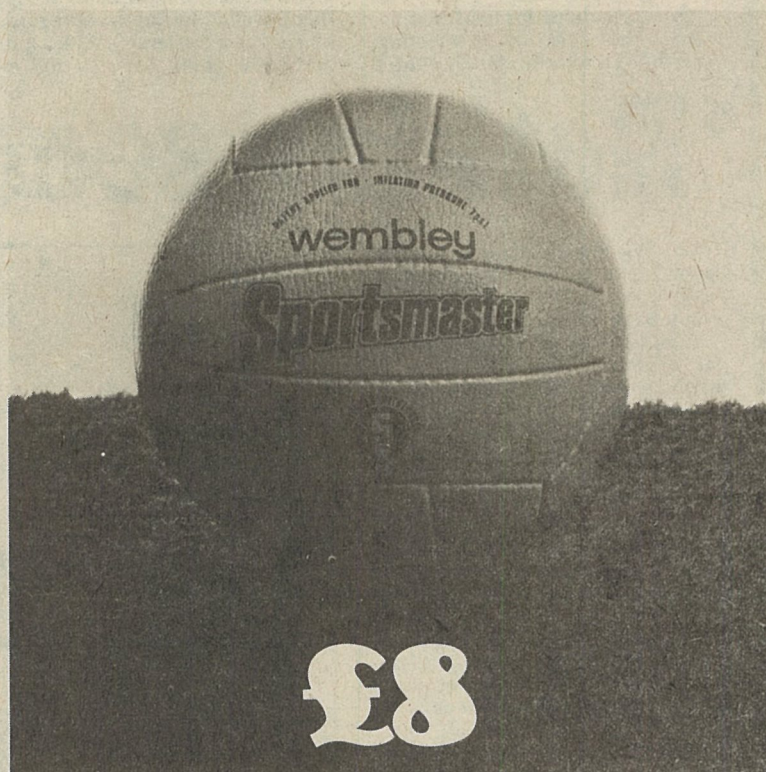
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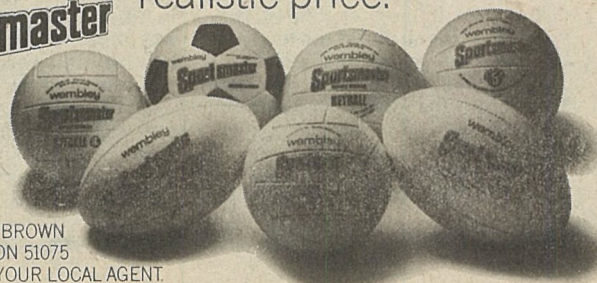


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FOR DETAILS OF YOUR LOCAL AGENT.

AS YOU can imagine, I was very disappointed at not being chosen to play for the full England side against West Germany on February 22nd.

On the other hand, I was delighted to be part of the England B success at Augsburg the night before.

Played in terrible conditions, on a pitch covered with two inches of snow, the first England B team to be called into action for 20 years beat West Germany B by 2-1 and proved this country has real strength in depth at international level.

We were called England "reserves" but no one felt second-class. Every member of Ron Greenwood's 30-man squad was told he was vital to the cause.

"We are looking for total commitment," he said at a meeting, "whether you are in the A or the B

He doesn't get the opportunity of a longer run. And he may be too old for the Under-21's.

Now we can bridge the gap more easily, giving fringe players or new internationals the chance to either establish themselves or reveal that they are not up to the mark.

The B team also gives those squad men who would otherwise be left on the sidelines, the chance of a game at international level. This keeps their spirit and interest.

Would, for example, goalkeeper Joe Corrigan get the chance to play for England with Clem and Shilton in such good form? Or Charlton striker Mike Flanagan the opportunity to show his potential? No, of course they wouldn't.

As I've said, no one in the B squad that travelled to Augsburg regarded himself as a "reserve". At least half that team could have slotted into

afterwards. I won a battle for possession and lobbed a pass to Alan Kennedy whose cross fell behind 'keeper Burdinski for Davie Fairclough to head inside the far post.

As you know I was substituted soon after, with Mike Flanagan, because of injury to us both. He had pulled a hamstring; I had hurt my groin after twisting in the snow earlier on.

The match would never had been allowed to take place in England. It was like running on sand in freezing Arctic conditions.

The spirit amongst the England B boys was magnificent. I've never known such a friendly atmosphere.

Perhaps there wasn't so much pressure on us as the full team and this helped to ease the tension.

But Ron Greenwood, Geoff Hurst, Bill Taylor, Bobby Robson and Don Howe are a very effective

combination.

They made us all feel important. They listened to our comments and treated us like responsible professionals.

In the past England squads were generally kept together in one section of a hotel. This time we were spread all over the Sheraton in Munich. We were trusted to behave as mature adults.

The only sad note of the whole trip was the defeat of the full England side after playing so very well.

West Germany snatched victory with two goals in the last 11 minutes just as Stuart Pearson's first-half goal was looking safe.

What stood out for me was the confidence and assurance of the whole team. They played with great skill and purpose, refusing to be overawed by the World Champions.

England A and B proved we are

'Nothing second rate about England's reserves'

team. We are all fighting for England. There are 30 players here, so let's do a job and see the same 30 come back next time."

I felt ten feet tall at that moment, far different from a week or so earlier when I heard the two squads announced.

When I realised I had lost my place in the full team to my pal Peter Barnes, I was sick . . . choked at being left out of the big one.

I understood Charlie George's feelings when he said he didn't want to play for the B team. Failure to be included in the full squad was like a slap in the face to him after such a great season for Derby.

I felt the same degree of disappointment, but there was no way I was going to turn Ron Greenwood's call down.

Better to play for the "reserves" than sit on the sub's bench, or in the stands watching the seniors in action.

At least we are involved in the build-up, the tactics, the training, and get the satisfaction of helping develop England's future.

Naturally I desperately want to fight my way back into the full team, even at the expense of Peter Barnes.

The only way I can regain my first team spot is to play as well as I can for United and give everything to England's cause in any capacity. Even ball-boy if necessary!

Like most people in the game I welcomed the reintroduction of B internationals, as I believe the move is vital to our set-up.

There's too big a gap between the League, the Under-21's and the full international team.

Too often in the past good players have been discarded at the top level after just one or two games.

It's a big stride from the First Division to the England side. International players aren't made overnight.

Often there's no time to allow a player to adjust to this higher level.



the full side.

Several critics, however, weren't too impressed with our performance against a West German B team sprinkled with top class players.

Considering the conditions and the strength of the opposition I thought England achieved a notable victory.

As our manager Bobby Robson said afterwards: "To come away and win is a better than decent performance. If we had taken our chances it would have been an even more impressive scoreline."

England took the lead five minutes after the interval. I drew two defenders and slipped the ball to Terry McDermott. His first effort was blocked but he made no mistake with his second attempt.

A few minutes later Worm, who was to score for the full team against England the following night, capitalised on skipper Phil Thompson's only mistake to equalise.

We recovered the lead shortly

Gordon (above) on the ball for the England B side against West Germany. Terry McDermott (second right) scores England's first goal.



not that far behind the best in the world. Not that I ever thought we were.

As the full England side will not be playing abroad this summer I'm looking forward to travelling to the Far East and America with the B squad ... if the tour gets the go-ahead.

There will be several England stars on view at Wembley this Saturday (March 18th) in the League Cup Final.

Despite Nottingham Forest's excellent season, I'm taking Liverpool to win the trophy.

I believe their vast experience of the big occasion will just give them the edge.

There's something about Wembley on a Cup Final day that can destroy the best of teams. The tension and atmosphere can trap the unwary ... as United discovered to their cost against Southampton in the 1976 F.A. Cup Final.

And don't forget it's the one major domestic trophy Liverpool have yet to win. That will also make them more determined.

League Cup Finals haven't exactly set the game on fire in the past ... this one will, I'm sure.

How can it fail? Two great sides ... two fine managers in Bob Paisley and Brian Clough ... and players such as Ray Clem, Kenny Dalglish, Kenny Burns, John Robertson, Martin O'Neill, Viv Anderson, Emlyn Hughes ... oh so many.

While Liverpool and Forest battle for the League Cup, United entertain West Brom at Old Trafford.

The Midlanders knocked us out of the F.A. Cup in a Fourth Round replay this season and won 4-0 in the League at The Hawthorns back in October.

Albion are a bogey side to United and it's about time that hoodoo was broken.

Cheers for now ...

Gordon Hill

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St. London, SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from David Podmore of Barry in South Glamorgan, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

FIRST-CLASS ENGLAND

I SAW England take on World Champions West Germany in Munich. England have their critics and have had their bad games, but against West Germany I thought they played some first-class football.

The two Manchester wingers, Barnes (City) and Coppell (United) played well and showed some great skill which had the West German defence in all kinds of trouble throughout the 90 minutes.

When Pearson headed England into the lead I thought it was the least they deserved as they had been the better team in the first-half.

After the West German equaliser I thought England recovered brilliantly and did not let the Germans get the edge on them.

The way I saw it, I thought the second West German goal was slightly unfair as I was sure England weren't ready for the free-kick and Ray Clemence did not have a chance.

I think they're looking a great side again. I hope England have lost a few critics and any people who are still England critics be quiet and let Ron Greenwood and England do their stuff.

● Rarely can a team gain much satisfaction in defeat, but England can look back to the Munich game knowing they did far more good things than the Germans. England have been mercilessly criticised by many people in the past two or three years, especially under Don Revie. Now, as you say, let Ron Greenwood have his chance — and he certainly seems to be progressing along the right lines.

BIAS

AS A Celtic supporter, I think it's bad that SHOOT has a colour page bias towards Rangers.

M. GALLAGHER, ABERDEEN.

● So do we, but unlike Rangers Celtic don't have a photo-call where team-groups and portraits of the players can be taken. As yet we have been unable to secure a team picture of Celtic, but we keep on trying.

REDS' TRAVEL

ANYONE interested in joining the Liverpool Supporters

Association (Midlands Area), which provides coach transport to The Reds' games, should contact me.

BARRY EYNON,
70 MONTALT ROAD,
CHEYLESMORE,
COVENTRY.

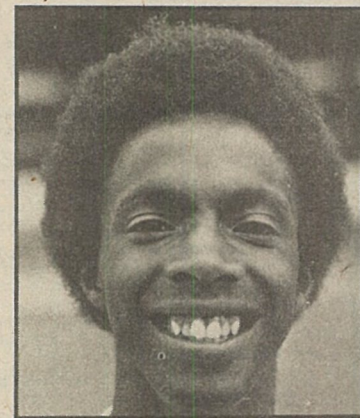
BLESSING

RARELY can a £1 million debt be a blessing in disguise, but in Crystal Palace's case it could be true.

Through necessity, they have had to produce a youth system and now Palace boast one of the finest bunch of young stars in the League.

Against Leeds in this season's Youth Cup Palace fielded no less than eight internationals.

SARAH CLARKE,
WALTHAMSTOW.



● It's always welcome to see a club producing its own players like Vince Hilaire (above), and although he's gone, Malcolm Allison must take a lot of credit for getting most of the present crop of Palace youngsters together.

PEN-PAL

I AM a fan of English football, especially Arsenal and Liverpool. I would like to exchange metal badges with English club supporters.

JAROSLAV KAZDA,
27307 VINARICE U Kladna,
REVOLUCUI 337 — TUHAU,
OKR. Kladno,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

TIDYING UP

I PLAY for Holy Trinity Under-12's and in our magazine my younger brother said he was the team's brush.

I think he meant sweeper!

COLIN REED,
BASILDON.

● No doubt your brother is a very clean player!

my soccer scene

GORDON HILL



West Brom (above, stripes) have become a bogey side to United.



RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

SECOND DIVISION

continued

BRIGHTON (1) 2 (Poskett, Horton pen.)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Scott) 22,694
 Brighton: Steele; Cattlin (Potts), Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Towner, Ward, Poskett, Clark, O'Sullivan.
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Newton, Cochrane, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, Morley.

BRISTOL R. (0) 2 (Randall, Hoadley o.g.)
ORIENT (0) 1 (Mayo) 9,416
 Bristol R: Thomas; Aitken, Bater, Day, Taylor (S), Prince, Barry, Pulis, Gould, Staniforth, Randall (Powell).
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Hoadley, Roeder, Godfrey, Gray, Mayo, Kitchen, Payne.

C. PALACE (0) 1 (Swindlehurst)
SHEFF. UTD. (0) 0 13,391
 Palace: Burns; Hinshelwood (P), Sansom, Holder, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Hilaire, Swindlehurst, Harkouk, Silkman.
 Sheff. U: Brown; Keeley, Calvert, Speight, Franks, Flynn, Woodward, Campbell, Stainrod, Hamson, Edwards (Cutbush).

MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Wood, Hodgson)
CARDIFF (2) 2 (Bishop, Buchanan) 6,538
 Mansfield: Arnold; Curtis, Foster (B), Sharkey, Foster (C), Wood, Morris, Phillips, Syrett, Hodgson, Aston.
 Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Pethard, Campbell, Pontin, Larmour, Grapes, Bishop, Went, Sayer, Buchanan.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Peach pen., MacDougall)
MILLWALL (1) 3 (Seasman, Lee, Pearson) 19,575

Southampton: Turner; Waldron (Hebbard), Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Pickering Ball, Boyer, MacDougall, Holmes, Andrusewski.
 Millwall: Johns; Donaldson, Moore, Walker, Kitchener, Hazell, Pearson, Seasman, Hamilton, Lee, Chambers.

TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Pratt, McAllister)
BLACKPOOL (2) 2 (Ronson, Walsh) 28,707
 Tottenham: Daines; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddle, McAllister, Perryman, Pratt, McNab, Duncan, Lee, Taylor.
 Blackpool: Ward; Gardner, Weston, Hart, McEwan, Thompson, Ronson, Chandler, Walsh, Ainscow, Waldron.
 Postponed: Bolton v Sunderland; Notts Co v Fulham; Stoke v Hull.

THIRD DIVISION

CAMBRIDGE (3) 3 (Cozens, Fallon, Morgan)
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 4,745
 Cambridge: Webster; Howard, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Watson, Cozens, Spriggs, Morgan, Finney, Biley.
 Plymouth: Barron; Horswill, Uzzell, Bason, Banton, Foster, Megson, Taylor, Austin, Craven, Delve.

EXETER (0) 1 (Holman)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 4,017
 Exeter: Baugh; Templeman, Hore, Weeks, Giles, Roberts, Hodge, Kellow, Holman, Bowker, Randell.
 Peterborough: Barron; Hughes, Lee, Ross, Turner, Carmichael, Slough, Butlin, Doyle, McEwan, Anderson.

HEREFORD 0
PRESTON 0 4,791
 Hereford: Mellor; Price, Ritchie, Cornes, Layton, Sheedy, Stephens, Spiring, Davey, Crompton, Barton.
 Preston: Tunks; Coleman, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, Cross, Doyle, Haslegrave, Thomson, Elwiss, Bruce.

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Jones)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 4,100
 Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Leigh, Neale, Wigginton, Cooper, Jones, Graham, Harford, Hubbard, Harding (Smith).
 Portsmouth: Figgins; Roberts, Taylor, Denyer, Hand (Cahill), Ellis, Piper, Kemp, Gilchrist, Stokes, Mellows.

OXFORD 0
CARLISLE 0 3,854

Oxford: Burton; Fogg, Drysdale, Briggs, Clarke, Jeffrey, Seacole, Taylor, Foley, Curran, Duncan.
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Carr, McCartney, McDonald, Lathan, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Tait, Rafferty, Hamilton.

SHEFF. WED. (2) 3 (Leman, Mullen, Tynan)
PORT VALE (1) 1 (Griffiths pen.) 9,516
 Sheff. W: Bolder; Walden, Grant, Rushbury, Cusack, Mullen, Wyld (Bradshaw), Johnson, Tynan, Leman, Porterfield.
 Port Vale: Connaughton; Beech, Griffiths (Cullerton), Ridley, Harris, Bentley, Sutcliffe, Lamb, Froggatt, Beamish, Bailey.

WALSALL (1) 3 (Dennehy, Buckley pen., Serella)
SHREWSBURY (0) 0 8,341
 Walsall: Kearns; Macken, Caswell, Harrison, Serella, Evans, Dennehy, Bates, Wood, Buckley, King.
 Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Griffin, Turner, Keay, Atkins, Irvine, Hornsby, Nixon, Lindsay, Maguire.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Green) 11,313
 Wrexham: Davies; Hill, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, McNeil, Whittle, Cartwright.
 Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt, Burton, Hunter, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Kowalski, Fern, Green, Chamberlain.

Postponed: Bradford C. v Tranmere; Colchester v Rotherham; Gillingham v Chester.

FOURTH DIVISION

NEWPORT (0) 3 (Goddard 3, 1 pen.) 4,288
ROCHDALE (0) 0 4,288
 Newport: Plumley; Byrne, Aizlewood, Walker (S), Walker (R), Jones, Sinclair, Goddard, Clark (Preece), Relish, Williams.
 Rochdale: Slack; Boslem, O'Loughlin, Morrin, Scott, Bannon, Owen, Scaife, Melledew, Esser, Hoy.

WATFORD 0
BARNLEY 0 13,216
 Watford: Rankin; How, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Downes, Joslyn, Jenkins (Blissett), Mayes, Pollard.
 Barnley: Fox; Murphy, Collins, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Riley, Peachey, Joicey, Little, Brown.

WIMBLEDON 0
SCUNTHORPE 0 1,603
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bithell, Eames, Galvin, Donaldson, Bassett, Leslie (Galliers), Denny, Connell, Parsons, Cork.
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; Davey, Holyoak (Wigg), Oates, Czuczman, Pilling, O'Donnell, Kavanagh, Keeley, Grimes, Lumby.

Postponed: Aldershot v Darlington; Brentford v Doncaster; Grimsby v Swansea; Halifax v Bournemouth; Hartlepool v Northampton; Southport v Reading; Torquay v Crewe.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

Postponed: Clydebank v Motherwell; Dundee Utd. v Rangers; Hibs v Ayr; Partick v Celtic; St. Mirren v Aberdeen.

MONDAY, FEB. 13

FOURTH DIVISION

Postponed: Barnsley v Swansea

SCOTTISH CUP (Third Round replay)

Postponed: Cowdenbeath v Partick

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

LEAGUE CUP (Semi-Final second-leg)

ARSENAL 0
LIVERPOOL 0 49,561
 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Hudson, Macdonald, Stapleton, Rix.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Smith, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Dalglish, Case, Heighway, McDermott, Callaghan.



Millwall's Trevor Lee scored one of the goals in his side's 3-2 away win v. Southampton.

SECOND DIVISION

Postponed: Oldham v Bolton

THIRD DIVISION

Postponed: Bradford C. v Tranmere; Peterborough v Chesterfield.

FOURTH DIVISION

Postponed: Doncaster v Aldershot; Halifax v Reading; Northampton v Southend; Scunthorpe v Hartlepool.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

LEAGUE CUP

(Semi-Final second-leg)

Postponed: Nottm Forest v Leeds.

THIRD DIVISION

Postponed: Bury v Swindon; Chester v Carlisle.

FOURTH DIVISION

Postponed: Torquay v Crewe.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

Postponed: Rangers v Ayr.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17

FIRST DIVISION

BRISTOL C (2) 2 (Royle, Whitehead)
MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Kidd, Booth) 25,834
 Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Merrick, Gow (Tainton), Rodgers, Hunter, Mann, Ritchie, Royle, Cormack, Whitehead.
 Man. C: Corrigan; Clements, Donachie, Booth, Watson, Owen, Channon, Bell, Kidd, Hartford, Barnes.

SECOND DIVISION

Postponed: Fulham v Cardiff.

FOURTH DIVISION

SOUTHEND (3) 5 (Morris, Moody, Laverick 2, Polycarpou)
HALIFAX (0) 0 6,128
 Southend: Burridge; Banks, Yates, Laverick, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Abbott, Polycarpou.
 Halifax: Gennoe; Flavell, Loska, Johnston, Alcock, Dunleavy, Firth, Carroll, Bullock, Lawson, Bell (Smith).

SWANSEA (2) 4 (Conway, Evans, James 2)
NEWPORT (0) 0
 Swansea: Barber; Evans, Morris, Lally, May, Bartley, Kennerley, James (R), Moore (K), Bruton, Conway.
 Newport: Plumley; Byrne, Aizlewood, Relish, Walker (R), Jones, Walker (S), Goddard (Preece), Clark, Sinclair, Williams.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

F.A. CUP

(Fifth Round)

ARSENAL (3) 4 (Stapleton 2, Macdonald, Sunderland)
WALSALL (0) 1 (Buckley) 43,736
 Arsenal: Jennings, Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Macdonald, Stapleton, Rix.
 Walsall: Kearns; Macken, Caswell, Harrison, Serella, Evans, Dennehy, Bates, Wood, Buckley, King.

BRISTOL R (0) 2 (Williams 2)
IPSWICH (1) 2 (Turner 2) 23,453
 Bristol R: Thomas; Aitken, Bater, Day, Taylor (S), Prince, Barry, Pulis, Gould, Williams, Randall.
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Talbot, Hunter, Osman, Wark, Viljoen (Osborne), Mariner, Turner, Woods.

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Chambers pen., Walker)
NOTTS CO (0) 1 (Chapman) 12,176
 Millwall: Johns; Donaldson, Moore, Walker, Kitchener, Hazell, Pearson, Seasman, Hamilton, Lee, Chambers.
 Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Chapman, Stubbs, Birchenall, Carter, McVay, Bradd (Hooks), Mann, Vinter.

ORIENT 0
CHELSEA 0 25,123
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Hoadley, Roeder, Godfrey, Gray, Mayo, Kitchen, Bennett.
 Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Wilkins (G), Britton, Droy, Harris, Finnieston, Wilkins (R), Langley, Swain, Walker.

Q.P.R. (1) 1 (Busby)
NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 (O'Neill) 26,803
 Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Abbott, Shanks, Busby, James, Bowles, Givens.
 Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Barrett, McGovern, Needham, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil)
BLUTH (1) 1 (Johnson) 19,935
 Wrexham: Davies; Hill, Dwyer, Evans, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, McNeil, Whittle (Lyons), Cartwright.
 Bluth: Clarke; Waterson, Guthrie, Alder, Scott, Dixon, Shoulder, Houghton, Johnson, Carney (S), Carney (R).

Postponed: Derby v WBA; Middlesbrough v Bolton.

FIRST DIVISION

EVERTON (1) 2 (McKenzie, Thomas)
WEST HAM (1) 1 (Hales) 33,862
 Everton: Wood; Jones, Pejic, Lyons, Higgins, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford (Telfer), McKenzie, Thomas.
 West Ham: Ferguson; Bonds (McDowell), Lampard, Pike, Taylor (T), Green, Devonshire, Robson, Cross, Brooking, Hales.
 Postponed: Coventry v Newcastle; Manchester United v Leeds; Wolves v Villa.

SECOND DIVISION

OLDHAM (0) 2 (Valentine, Gardner)
BOLTON (1) 2 (Reid, Whatmore) 20,810
 Oldham: Platt; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Holt, Valentine, Taylor, Halom, Chapman, Gardner.
 Bolton: McDonagh; Ritson, Walsh, Greaves, Jones (P), Allardyce, Morgan, Whatmore, Train, Reid, Worthington.

Postponed: Burnley v Mansfield; C. Palace v Blackpool; Hull v Southampton; Luton v Tottenham; Sheff Utd v Brighton; Sunderland v Stoke.

THIRD DIVISION

PLYMOUTH (0) 0
BRISTOL C (1) 1 (McNiven) 2,843
 Abandoned after 61 minutes.

Postponed: Carlisle v Hereford; Chester v Oxford; Chesterfield v Lincoln; Peterborough v Sheff. Wed; Portsmouth v Exeter; Preston v Colchester; Rotherham v Cambridge; Shrewsbury v Bury; Tranmere v Gillingham.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

BRISTOL Rovers' exciting young striker Paul Randall has one man to thank for his breakthrough into League soccer this season — his dad Ken.

Ken, a former amateur centre-half with Everton and Aldershot and young Paul's biggest fan these days, gave his son the encouragement he needed to try again when a professional career looked remote.

Explains Randall junior: "I had trials with Rovers when I left school at 16, as well as with Bristol City, Cardiff and Manchester City. But they all turned me down.

"I was very downhearted and I think my dad was even more upset than me. But he kept giving me the encouragement and advice he's been handing out since I first showed a serious interest in football as a ten-year-old.

"Like me, I think deep down he'd begun to think my chance had gone of making it as a pro. But he didn't let it show and he couldn't have been more proud when Rovers offered me a contract at the start of the season after watching me play for Frome in the Western League."

Randall had scored 20 for Frome the previous season and just eight days after chucking in his job as a supermarket manager to sign for the Eastville club, he made his debut against Cardiff — one of the other clubs who'd rejected him as a youngster.

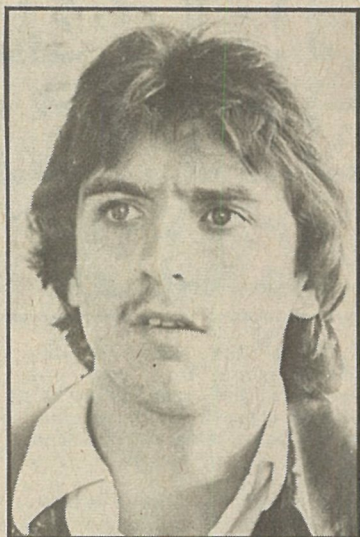
He was dropped after just four games, but bounced back again and stunned high-flying Southampton by scoring two great goals against them in their Fourth Round F.A. Cup defeat at Bristol. That's the highlight of his career so far,

Two of England's most exciting young goalscoring prospects, whose careers in big-time soccer seemed doomed to failure.

'Rejected by Bristol City'

PAUL RANDALL

Bristol Rovers



earning Rovers a Fifth Round home tie against First Division Ipswich.

"I'd never played in front of such a big crowd but if anything, the atmosphere was a lift to me. Scoring both of the goals was an unbelievable climax to the day."

When he first came into the Rovers team, they were struggling at the foot of the Division Two table and looking certain for relegation.

"It wasn't easy coming into a side that hadn't been doing well. Obviously, I was grateful for the chance but their poor record put extra pressure on me.

"Fortunately, things turned out okay. Everyone is buckling down to the job now and working for each other and the spirit is fan-

tastic at Eastville."

Former boss Don Megson was the man who signed Randall, who was 20 in February, but new manager Bobby Campbell has kept faith with him.

The youngster has adapted so well to this new environment that he is now confident of surpassing his goals target of 20 before the end of the season.

"I did find it physically tough at first but once you've adjusted to full time training, it's not too bad. Training every day and mixing with better players has helped me improve quickly. And all the other players at the club have been ever so good to me."

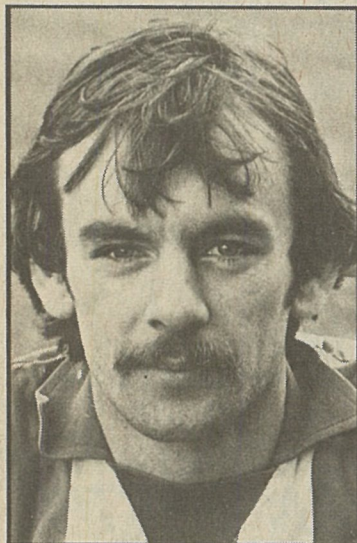
He's a modest lad but he's not too shy to tell you why he has done so well. "I think my speed is

my main asset. I've got the pace to pull away from defenders once I've got round them. I used to run the 100 and 200 metres at school so I've always been handy at sprints.

"I have noticed a difference in playing style at Rovers. They knock a lot more long balls through for me to chase, which means more running. They let me play my own way, though, roaming around in the middle."

Randall always felt he had the ability to make it at professional level and now he's proved it, he can afford to feel magnanimous towards those who didn't think he had it in him.

"I'm not bitter towards the clubs who turned me down. I just think I was a late developer — and I'm catching up quickly now."



'Heartbroken at Middlesbrough'

MALCOLM POSKETT

Brighton

a 19-year-old but when Jack Charlton arrived, I didn't get a look in. I was so heartbroken, I felt like packing the game in altogether."

Instead, he took out his frustrations on Northern League defences, scoring 98 goals for Whitby in two seasons. Pool manager Billy Horner was so impressed by the statistics he signed the striker up without even seeing him play.

Horner also salvaged the career of the young forward, who admits that, despite the goals, he was lazy when he first arrived at the Victoria Ground.

"My work rate was non-existent but Billy Horner really worked on me and got me going. If it wasn't for him, I don't think I would have got anywhere — I'd still be in non-League soccer now.

"It was so hard at first I felt like packing it in, but he kept me at it and I'm very grateful now."

Poskett, 24, didn't make his League debut until November, 1976, but he scored his first goal on his fourth appearance and three games after that shattered Torquay with a hat-trick.

By the end of last season, he'd notched ten goals in 29 appearances, a start that already had a few top clubs keeping an eye on him.

Strangely, Brighton were a club who'd never been connected with him until they sprang their transfer surprise early in February.

"I was amazed when I was told Brighton wanted me. And I'd been worried Hartlepool might have been asking too much. £25 to £60,000 is quite a jump.

"I'd never even been to Brighton before and I'd only seen the team on television."

Poskett already had 11 goals to his credit before going to the Goldstone Ground, which was excellent considering he missed about seven games because of an appendicitis operation earlier in the season.

He also lost no time opening his account for his new club, scoring the goal that got them a 1-1 draw at Hull on his debut.

One of the great things about his move is the chance to play in front of big crowds every week.

The football's different, too. "It took me a little time to adjust. In the Fourth Division they pump high balls over defences for you to chase.

"In the Second Division, there are more one-twins, and people give it to your feet most of the time. That's a lot better, and the players here have much more skill than what I've been used to.

"But I'm grateful to Hartlepool. They're a good little club and I'm glad I was able to fetch such a good fee because they need the money.

"Now my big ambition is to play at Ayresome Park and put on a good performance.

"It's not just I want to make them realise they were wrong to let me go. That is part of the reason but they're also my home town club and my uncle, Billy Day, used to play on the right-wing for them."

MALCOLM Poskett's £60,000 move to Brighton was a step up from the last transfer deal he was involved in.

When Hartlepool signed him from Northern League Whitby Town, they handed over just £25. And Poskett, who picks up £3,000 from the Brighton move, took a £70 a week drop in wages!

He explains: "I was working as a plater when I played for Whitby but when Hartlepool came in for me, I decided to give professional football another go.

"I'd signed for Middlesbrough as

BOTTOM DIVISION- BETTER FOR BRADFORD CITY

ONE of the silliest-sounding statements that you hear around football grounds at this stage of a season is "They don't want to go up" referring to a team on the brink of promotion that suddenly falters.

The inference, of course, is that a club is better off doing well in a lower Division, than possibly facing a bleak season the following year a little higher up the ladder.

Most people will refute that such an attitude exists, yet on closer examination one could understand certain managers worrying about their futures should the team actually go up.

One man who may well have been better off had his team not achieved promotion last year is Bobby Kennedy, the former Kilmarnock and Manchester City full-back.

As manager of Bradford City he shrewdly guided a small professional staff with such expertise that against the odds the club went up to the Third Division

along with Cambridge, Colchester and Exeter.

Kennedy knew then his squad was not strong enough for the Third Division, and he tried hard to recruit new players to make up the deficiency.

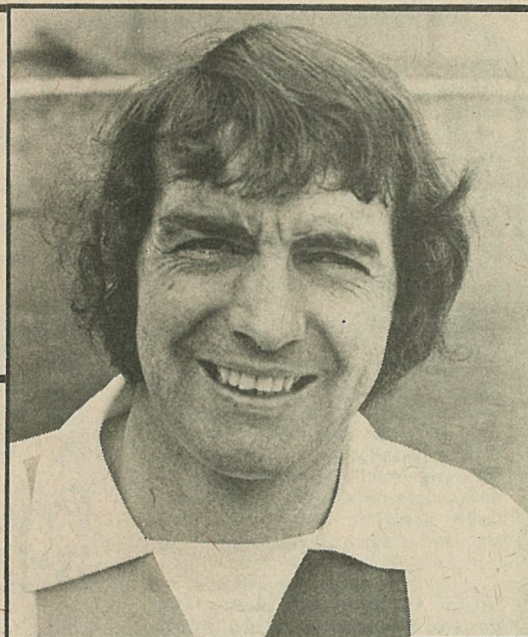
A certain amount of money was put at his disposal by an ambitious board who shared his realisation — but Kennedy failed to recruit the men he wanted — and paid with his job.

City made a wretched start to the season and recently slumped to the foot of the Third Division, so it cannot be said Kennedy's sacking was a surprise.

Even so, he must be left reflecting that had City failed to go up, he might still have been in a job, with a team pressing again near the top of the Fourth Division — and better supported than they are at the foot of the Third.

A section of the Valley supporters were so incensed by his sacking they led a campaign to have him re-instated — fruitlessly as it

New manager at Valley Parade is former Northern Ireland star John Napier.



turned out, and former Northern Ireland international John Napier has now taken charge of the side.

He immediately moved into the transfer market for Leeds United striker David McNiven and Blackburn Rovers utility man Mick Wood.

Bradford City have benefited from McNiven and Wood's experience of higher grade football already. A 2-1 home victory over promotion seeking Gillingham recently showed that Napier has spent well in a bid to strengthen

his team.

Perhaps if Kennedy had also spent he would still have been occupying the manager's chair.

Obviously, every manager wants the best for his club and if promotion is achieved sets his heart on going even higher, but the case of Bobby Kennedy is worth bearing in mind for those bosses whose clubs are on the fringe of the Fourth Division promotion race right now.

Meanwhile Bradford City still have a chance to stay in the Third Division, of course, and we wish them and John Napier all the best.

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DEDICATION and loyalty have never been recognised as Stan Bowles' major virtues. His popular image is of a gifted but wayward footballer.

But this season Bowles has shown a new side to his character in a startlingly successful transition from striker to midfield general.

In a Q.P.R. team struggling in the lower reaches of the First Division, Bowles has added consistency to his undoubted class.

Illness robbed him of the chance to crown that success by playing for Ron Greenwood's England B squad against West Germany last month.

"I like to think I'm now a more complete player," says Bowles, who clearly revels in his new-found responsibility.

"At the start of the season manager Frank Sibley and I decided I was not making the most of myself, and I was keen to give it a go in midfield.

"I worked hard at the physical aspect of my play, concentrating on my heading and tackling, which have come on tremendously this season.

"To be honest, I'm surprised at how much I'm enjoying myself. The last time I played in midfield was as an 18-year-old with Manchester City.

"I love the involvement. As a striker I spent most of my time with my back to goal, but now I can see more of the game, and use that knowledge accordingly."

It was Rangers' boss Frank Sibley, at 30 just one year older than Bowles, who first spotted his potential as a midfield player.

"I have always believed Stan has all the qualities needed to make a great midfield player," he says. "He can tackle, shoot and head the ball equally well, has a great awareness of the game, and is not afraid of hard work.

A change of role has helped reform one of soccer's most controversial characters.

The NEW Stan Bowles

A jubilant Stan Bowles (right, arms raised) after he had scored against Liverpool earlier this season. Stan is far happier in midfield. He can now face defenders instead of being tackled from behind as Manchester City's Dave Watson (below) illustrates.



"Despite that, he has done better than I dared hope. He's been playing consistently well in a team which, let's be honest, has not been doing too well, and that is hard to do."

It is a sign of his renewed appetite for the game that Bowles devotes a great deal of thought to Rangers' currently perilous position.

"I never want to play Second Division football again," he states with convincing finality.

"It worries me a lot that most people are still saying we are too good to go down. If that is said too often, some of the players might begin to believe it, and become complacent.

"My remedy is simple. I look at a League table, and there we are — in danger among the dead men of the First Division.

"That is the only incentive I need to forget what is being said and do my best to help Rangers out of trouble."

Bowles cannot hide his delight about the way things have been going on a personal level. But things were less serene earlier on in the season.

"I did not agree with Frank Sibley's policy of making wholesale changes to the team that Dave Sexton left — and told him so.

"I believed some changes were necessary, but not to that extent. I am glad to say I am gradually being proved wrong.

"It needed great courage to make that sort of decision, but Frank is building the foundations for a successful future at Q.P.R.

"He has had a great effect on the club already, but his real work will not bear fruit until 1979 or 1980."

Sibley is equally impressed with the progress of Bowles, and is convinced he can operate in a midfield role until he is 36 or 37.

"I want to finish my career playing in midfield for Rangers, and obviously not having to take the knocks a striker has to, will lengthen my football life," concurs Bowles.

"My main ambition is to regain my England place. That seemed unlikely when the original squads for West Germany were announced.

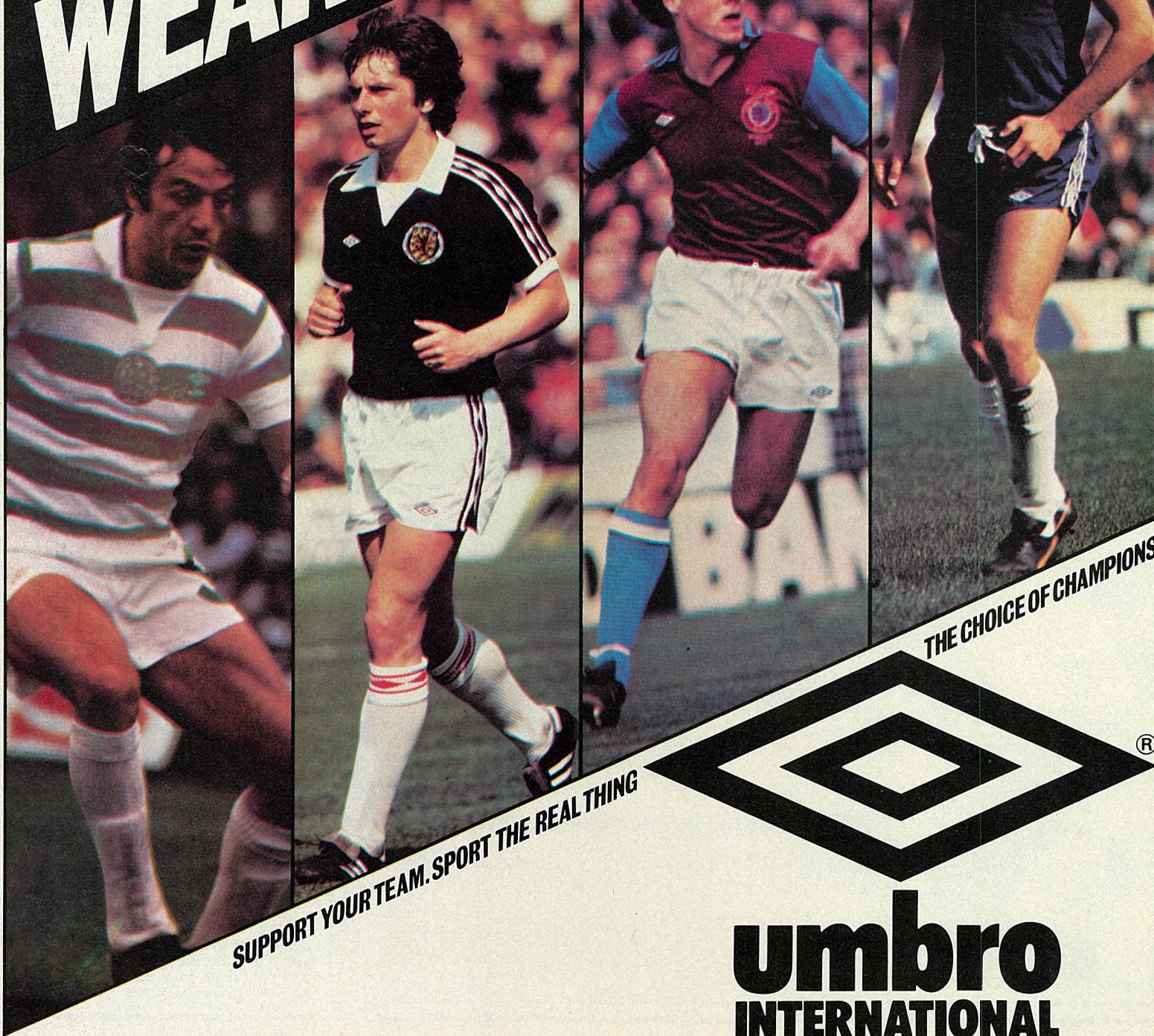
"I was surprised and disappointed at not being included, because since November I have been playing the best football of my career.

"Once the chance came to join the B squad I was delighted. But it made it all the more sad to have to pull out with 'flu.

"I only hope I am not forgotten by Ron Greenwood . . ."

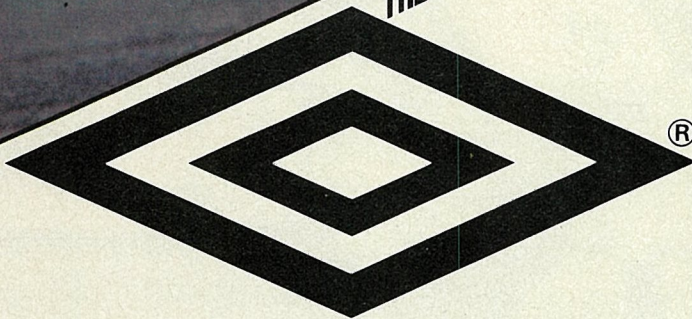
Which team do you support? Liverpool, Scotland, Manchester City, Celtic, Rangers, Aston Villa, Arsenal, Blackpool, Bristol City, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Cardiff City, Chelsea, Derby County, Everton, Heart of Midlothian, Stoke City, St Mirren, Sunderland, Partick Thistle, West Bromwich Albion, Wolverhampton Wanderers? ☐ Show your allegiance! Sport the jerseys the players themselves wear - Umbro International. ☐ Umbro official team jerseys come in each team's correct colours and styles and feature embroidered authentic team badges. ☐ To be absolutely sure you're buying the real thing, look for the Umbro diamond trade mark. It's your guarantee of quality and genuine authenticity. Accept no substitute. Beware of imitations! ☐ As well as jerseys, you can also get team shorts and hose - and for many teams, both home and away strip and team track suits too. ☐ Wear your team's jersey or kit on match day - or every day. Umbro official team jerseys and kit are obtainable from good sports outfitters and club souvenir shops.

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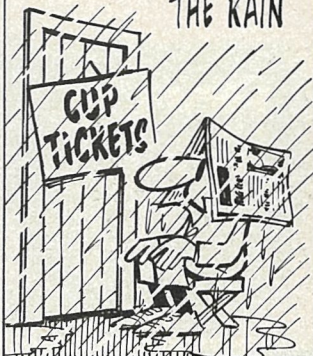
SHOOT!

It's tough at the top ... and Clydebank have already found that out. The Kilbowie club were promoted from the Scottish First Division last term, but, alas have found the Premier Division challenge hard, and are now fighting against relegation. Against Partick Thistle recently though, The Bankies were well on top winning 2-0. Here Clydebank's full-back Gerry Colgan (right) beats Thistle's Alastair Love.



NOBBY

I SUPPOSE I ASKED FOR
IT, OUT ALL NIGHT IN
THE RAIN



I HAD TO GO TO BED
AND SEND FOR THE
DOCTOR



YOU MUST BE KEEN,
he said QUEUING ALL
NIGHT FOR A TICKET



BUT DON'T WORRY... I'LL
SEE IT ISN'T
WASTED!"



BORUSSIA Mönchengladbach 'keeper Wolfgang Kleff received a bump on the head during their recent win over St. Pauli of Hamburg, but played on.

After the game, Kleff said he was happy that Borussia had won 2-1.

In fact, it was 1-0 — Kleff had concussion and couldn't remember too much about the match!

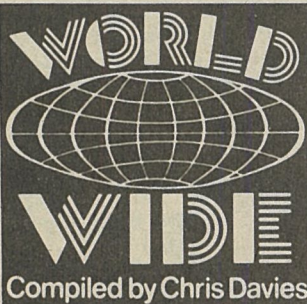
ALL CHANGE

AJAX and Feyenoord, the two traditional "giants" of Dutch football, will each have a new team-boss next season.

Ivic is leaving Ajax and will be succeeded by Cor Brom, currently with Sparta Rotterdam.

When Boskov leaves the Rotterdammers, he will be replaced by Vaclav Jezek, team-manager of Czechoslovakia.

Other European changes: Ernst Happel will leave FC Bruges and Rinus Michels will quit Barcelona, probably to return to Holland as technical supremo to the Dutch F.A.



26 SENT-OFF

WHAT surely must be a world record was seen in Mexico recently when the referee showed no less than 26 red cards during a game. Yes — twenty six. America were playing Atlético Español and players began fighting.

Referee Gonzales (a linesman during the 1974 World Cup Final) sent-off seven players, but still the violence continued.

Managers, trainers, assistants and substitutes continued to fight and a further 19 (!) people were shown the red card making 26 in all.



HERE'S Sepp Maier in action for Bayern Munich during his 400th successive game ... the West German goalkeeper has been an ever-present since August 20th, 1966.

That's equivalent to 25 days (or 600 hours between the sticks) and Maier, just 34, says: "It must be frustrating for the other Bayern 'keepers, but my aim is to make it 500 in a row."

PLAYER PROBLEMS FROM BRAZIL BOSS

BRAZIL boss Cláudio Coutinho has found himself immersed in problems over the past few weeks as his country's build-up for the World Cup Finals gets under way.

More than anything, Coutinho is concerned about his forward line, an almost unbelievable thing when one thinks of Brazil's attacking reputation.

"Dynamite" Roberto, who scored the winner against England in the Bicentennial tournament in Los Angeles, was the regular centre-forward. He is out of form with just six goals in the current Brazilian Championship.

So Coutinho was counting on Reinaldo — 20 goals this season, but

he lost his head in a game last month and hit a player who had spat on him.

This worries Coutinho, because it was during an easy game for Reinaldo's side (Atlético Mineiro) and general opinion is that being Brazil's number nine has gone to the player's head.

Coutinho was also looking closely at Serginho, a tall (6ft 3ins) striker of São Paulo F.C. He is the season's most prolific scorer, but Serginho did something even sillier than Reinaldo ... he kicked a linesman.

Serginho "scored" a last-minute winner, but the linesman spotted him in an offside position and the goal was disallowed. The linesman had a ten centimetre gash in his leg. As a consequence, Serginho has been suspended for a year which, of course, rules him out of the World Cup.

More bad news: superstar Zico (left) has been playing poorly ... badly enough to be booed by supporters of Flamengo, enraged that their team are out of the Championship.

People say Zico is too tired to play well because his wife is a firm believer in Women's Lib and makes her husband get up during the night to tend to their newly-born baby.

Even so, Brazil invariably have problems before World Cups but, as they say in show-business, everything will be all right on the night. With Brazil it usually is.



DINO Zoff has now played 60 games for Italy, but many Italian fans think the 36-year-old goalkeeper is past his best.

Zoff's critics say these figures prove his form has dropped: he has conceded 46 goals in his 60 games, 17 in the first 33 and 29 in the last 27.

CRUYFF BOOED

PEOPLE say that shock results are the life-blood of football — but Barcelona fans were the ones calling for blood after seeing their side held to a staggering 1-1 home draw by bottom-of-the-table Cadiz. The tail-enders had conceded 19 goals in their previous four matches, and a week before they'd lost 0-5 at home to Betis, so the Barcelona Press and fans alike were cheerfully predicting a rugby score.

In fact, Cadiz had the cheek to take the lead after 51 minutes and only an 83rd minute goal by sweeper Olmo saved a point.

Meanwhile, Cruyff and Miqueli had been booked for protesting and Barcelona's midfield general Carlos Rexach had been sent-off for kicking Cadiz defender Rosado.

Johan Cruyff was also continuously whistled by his own fans for playing in defence with his team losing 0-1!

Barcelona's lapse and Real Madrid's surprise 3-2 defeat in Burgos have opened up the race for the title, with half a dozen teams in contention, including Athletic Bilbao who look like mounting a serious challenge after their good 1-0 away win over last season's Champions Atlético Madrid.

NO BOOST

WORLD Cup qualification has not given the game in Austria the boost some people might have expected. FK Austria, League leaders by 12 clear points, were watched by only 4,200 in their last home game. The Viennese local derby Wiener SK v Rapid drew only 3,500, and another famous old Vienna club Admira attracted a mere 400 to their match with Sturm Graz.

CONGRATULATIONS to Welsh referee Clive Thomas, who's among the F.I.F.A. list of 35 officials for the World Cup. But one word of warning, Clive — if you referee a game involving Spain, they may expect you to appear in drag!

The Spaniards misprinted your name as Olive Thomas!

NEWS FLASHES

Argentinian World Cup referee Angel Coerezza recently made a real hash of refereeing Argentina's National Championship Final between Independiente and Talleres, and the Buenos Aires Press described his performance as the worst they'd seen for a long time.

Highest score so far this season in the Belgian First Division came when FC Liege beat La Louviere 8-1. Liege's German forward Klinge scored five goals.

Dieter Müller, top scorer in West Germany, may be leaving 1.F.C. Cologne next season. At the moment he earns around £50,000 a year, but Müller has said he wants £70,000 a year if he re-signs.

Five months suspension hangs over Hajduk Split star Zungul. That was the "cost" of a 36-hour disappearance while in Hamburg for a game against HSV. Apparently, he spent the time with HSV's Yugoslav defender Bulgan, a former team-mate.

Dutch club Feyenoord are in trouble ... five years ago they averaged 46,000 every home game. This figure has dropped to 19,000 and it is estimated that this season the Rotterdammers have lost £400,000.

THE F.A. of oil-rich Iran have a problem ... how to reward their players suitably for reaching the World Cup Finals.

The players have already received a new car and a house each and were asked what else they'd like.

Their answer: to meet Pele! So, the great Brazilian was flown in to spend a couple of days with the squad.

REAL Madrid estimate that their elimination in the Fifth Round of the Spanish Cup has cost them about £33,000 in lost gate receipts. The club treasurer had been banking on the side reaching at least the Semi-Finals.

PERU have dropped captain Julio Melendez and goalkeeper Jose Gonzalez Ganoza from their World Cup squad.

Both failed medical tests — and both were very angry with the decision.

Melendez, 36, failed because of an old knee injury sustained when he was playing for Boca Juniors in Argentina ten years ago. "I've never had any trouble with it, though," he said.

Ganoza was found to have a hernia but like Melendez claims the injury does not bother him.

SHOOT: You'll be one of the most experienced players in Argentina — a member of the exclusive 100 Club. When did you make your debut for Sweden?

NORDQVIST: It was against Hungary in Budapest during 1963. The game was a qualifying tie for the 1964 Olympics (which Hungary won) and Sweden fielded a very inexperienced team as players who had played in a World Cup match were ineligible. We lost 4-0, but with five minutes to go the score was only 1-0.

SHOOT: What is the main difference you've noticed over the years?

NORDQVIST: The game is much faster now and marking much tighter. Also, big matches tend to be treated far more seriously, and as a result the football is much harder with no quarter given.

SHOOT: Will you finish your career after the Finals?

NORDQVIST: I think my international career will be over, yes. As for my club, IFK Gothenburg, I

'We've had the

don't know. It depends on how we do in the League this year and how I feel.

SHOOT: In Britain, we hear little of Sweden in between World Cup Finals, yet you're always there when it matters. What's your secret?

NORDQVIST: Well, to some extent it's due to the luck of the draw. We had a fairly easy qualifying group in 1970 (France and Norway), and this time neither Switzerland nor Norway gave us too much trouble. In 1974 we simply had a very good team. I think another important

factor is the very high morale in the Sweden camp. Our team-spirit is fantastic and the way we approach our games is to always do our best at all times.

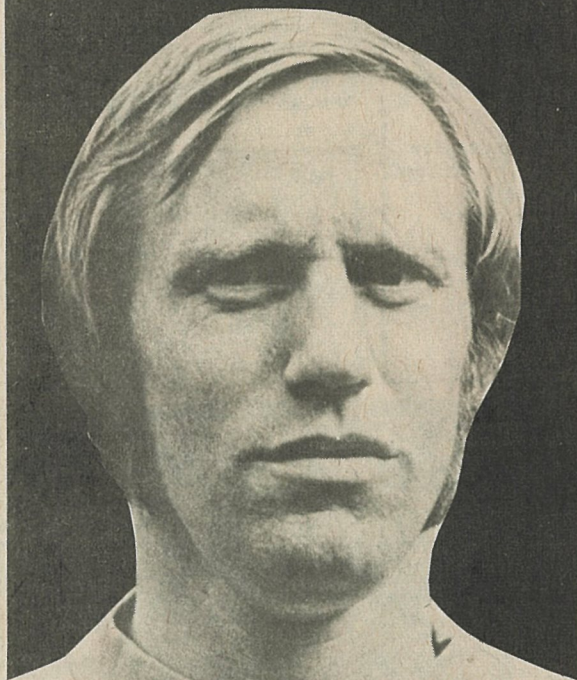
SHOOT: How does your present side compare with the one that finished fifth in West Germany?

NORDQVIST: We were fortunate then to have several key players hitting top form at the same time. Everything suddenly clicked in the 1973 qualifying ties against Austria and Hungary and this momentum carried us through the World Cup Finals. Ralf Edström and Roland Sandberg were the perfect "weapon" for our counter-attacks. I think we are still as strong at the back, but elsewhere we still lack something. I'd also like to say we didn't do too badly in Mexico, 1970. We beat Uruguay (who eventually came fourth) and lost unluckily 1-0 to Italy who came second. We went out on goal-difference — one goal at that.

SHOOT: You've been



No 7
**BJÖRN
NORDQVIST** Sweden



ABOVE, RIGHT . . . The Swedish squad in training camp.
RIGHT . . . Goalkeeper Ronnie Hellström gains vital experience in the German Bundesliga.



drawn against Brazil, Austria and Spain. How do you rate your chances?

NORDQVIST: Impossible to say right now! It's obviously a very tough group, but we can only do our best and certainly don't feel beaten in advance.

SHOOT: There were rumours Sweden might withdraw from the competition for political reasons.

NORDQVIST: There was no truth in those. The Swedish F.A. have never wavered and have declared all the time we'll go to Argentina.

SHOOT: Will we see many familiar faces in the Sweden line-up?

NORDQVIST: Ronnie Hellström is still in goal and I hope to be in the centre of our defence. Ralf Edström has knee ligament trouble, but could be fit in time. Conny Torstensson and Staffan Tapper may also be there.

luck of the draw'

BELOW . . . Ralf Edström shows his power in the air. RIGHT . . . Edström and Roland Sandberg in action v. Bulgaria in the '74 Finals.



SHOOT: How much did the Swedish players receive for reaching the Finals?

NORDQVIST: If you played in all the qualifying ties — £300.

SHOOT: Several of your players are playing abroad. Is this good or bad for Sweden?

NORDQVIST: Both. It's good because I think they can only get better by playing in a competitive professional League. Unfortunately, we have had instances where these foreign clubs didn't have the patience to allow these Swedes to adjust to the new environment, so they spent their time sitting on the subs' bench instead of developing their skills. The main drawback in having players abroad is obviously they can't get away for all our games. For instance, during March we've been to Spain to train for ten days, but the professionals weren't there, of course.

SHOOT: George Ericson is one of two managers left from the '74 Finalists (West Germany's Helmut Schoen is the other). Tell us a little about your boss.

NORDQVIST: He really cares about his players and they respond to this enthusiasm. "Jojje", as he is known, has the marvellous ability to create a close unit from a big squad. A player has the same feeling travelling with Sweden as he does with his club side, when he sees his team-mates every day. Mr. Ericson is very ambitious and



ensures everything is carefully planned. When he was manager of my old club, Norrköping, he was very outspoken and flamboyant. He has mellowed a little, now. I think he picked up a lot from his predecessor, Orvar Bergmark, who was calmness itself. We still see some of the "old" Ericson now and again — that's how it should be.

SHOOT: Who are the new stars for us to look out for in your team?

NORDQVIST: There's a very promising full-back — Magnus Andersson, our Footballer of the Year in 1977. Centre-half Roy Andersson and Torbjörn Nilsson, my club-mate, will also make big impacts.

SHOOT: What kind of soccer do you think we'll see in Argentina?

NORDQVIST: I believe attacking football will dominate, though some teams . . . maybe even

ourselves . . . will be forced on the defensive. Our style is best suited to hanging back and waiting for the counter-attack. I feel the positive, open trend will continue and the sort of football played by the Dutch and West Germans will dominate.

SHOOT: Argentina has been criticised as a venue. How do you feel about it?

NORDQVIST: I can't see any reason for not expecting it to be O.K.

SHOOT: Can history be made and a European team win the World Cup in South America?

NORDQVIST: Tradition has it a South American team will win, but my fancy is West Germany. They have imposing strength in depth. Argentina, as hosts, are bound to do well and so, too, are Brazil.

SHOOT: What about Scotland? You met them in a friendly last year and lost at Hampden Park.

NORDQVIST: I rate Scotland very highly. It seems to me the British have stopped their sterile style of play with nothing but high balls and chasing. Now, there is more variation in their moves and this has added to the Scots' virtues of good physical condition and fighting strength. These qualities make Scotland a very good team and they could be dangerous outsiders.

SHOOT: Will you miss England?

NORDQVIST: Of course! The English team, with its well-known

players and their fans, always add atmosphere to a big tournament like the World Cup. There wasn't very much that separated Italy and England. But that's football!

SHOOT: Unlike most other Finalists, Sweden don't play soccer during the winter. How are you keeping fit?

NORDQVIST: We are lucky to have a full-size artificial pitch in Gothenburg and after a couple of weeks' rest at the end of last season we resumed training again. Other clubs train on earthen or sandy floors inside a big tent. This winter has been rather mild and quite a bit of training has been done outside. While stamina is no problem, keeping sharp through match practice is very difficult. We played some indoor tournaments which were fun but don't serve any real purpose. During April we play East and West Germany and during May we meet Czechoslovakia. Hopefully by then we'll be as fit as everyone else.

● Interview by Frank Sjöman.

Next Week
ARTURO VAZQUEZ
AYALA
Mexico

FOCUS ON ROY ANDERSSON

(Malmö FF)

FULL NAME: Bror Roy Andersson
BIRTHPLACE: Malmö
BIRTHDATE: 2nd August, 1949
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 12st. 9lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Kirsebergs IF
MARRIED: Yes, to Solbritt
CHILDREN: Three boys
CAR: Toyota
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Swedish — Bo Larsson: international — Franz Beckenbauer
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Liverpool
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: No one in particular
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: AC Milan — Malmö in the European Cup 1968
BIGGEST THRILL: My first Swedish League Championship success in 1970
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Bayern Munich in the European Cup (1975). (Two bad refereeing decisions gave the Germans their victory)
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Quite a few good ones
FAVOURITE FOOD: Stews, spaghetti



MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Sports, music, my family
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Wars, intrigues
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: M*A*S*H
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Like everything!
FAVOURITE ACTOR: Burt Lancaster

BEST FRIEND: Roland Andersson (player with MFF)
BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON CAREER: Antonio Duran, Karl-Erik Hult, Bob Houghton — all coaches with Malmö
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: That most stadiums in Sweden have a running-track round the pitch and because of this lose all atmosphere
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 13 full caps for Sweden
PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL AMBITION: To play for Sweden in the World Cup Finals, to win the League with MFF again and to go far in the next European Cup with them, too
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? I am a building-engineer
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? No one in particular

Roy Andersson

'I STILL GET CUP FINAL THRILLS'

HAMPDEN, here we come again! Rangers will play in their fourth Cup Final in three seasons when we take the field on Saturday for the fight for the League Cup against Celtic.

Obviously, I enjoy these big games and no matter how many I have played in I still get the same thrill as I did as a youngster. There is something special about Cup Final day. It's a showpiece game and the League Cup is a piece of silverware which we won only two years ago.

We met Celtic in that Final and, as usual, it was a really tough game. The only goal was scored by Alex MacDonald.

He jack-knifed forward to meet a cross from the right and from about eight yards he headed neatly past the clawing fingers of Peter Latchford. That same season saw us play my favourite other side, Hearts, in the Scottish Cup Final.

What a day that was! The rain poured down non stop and Hampden is a grey old stadium at the best of times. But we got off to the best possible start with a goal in the first minute.

Best Headers

Big Derek Johnstone, I rate him along with Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan as the best headers of a ball in Britain, met a free-kick from Tommy McLean and my mate Jim Cruickshank didn't stand a chance in goal.

League Cup hero MacDonald scored number two just before the interval with a crisp low shot and we knew it was all over when Johnstone struck again with a close-in effort after Bobby McKean had worked a bit of magic on the right-wing.

Hearts, beaten by Celtic in this season's League Cup Semi-Finals, got one back through Graham Shaw, but there was no way we were going to lose that game. Our next match at Hampden wasn't quite so pleasant.

We were defending our League Cup when we were drawn against Aberdeen in the Semi-Finals. The memory of that game still haunts me, you know.

It was a real nightmare. We were beaten 5-1 and we all sat in the Hampden dressing-room afterwards absolutely shattered. We just couldn't look at each other. It

was terrible, an experience I would never like to go through again.

All credit to Aberdeen, though. They played well and they went on to beat Celtic in the Final with a winning goal from Davie Robb in extra-time.

Hampden, in fact, wasn't the happiest of places for us last season because we also made the Final of the Scottish Cup ... and lost that game, too!

We met Celtic on another rain-lashed day and we went down 1-0. It's history now the Parkhead men won with a hotly-disputed penalty-kick, taken by Andy Lynch. I'll never be convinced Derek Johnstone handled the ball on the line that day.

He still swears to this day it hit him on the thigh and I believe him. Anyway, I think we might have

had a draw if we had had more luck with our finishing.

I know this probably sounds like sour grapes, but you can't argue against a magnificent header by our substitute Chris Robertson that left Peter Latchford helpless, but hammered against the bar. That's football, though, I suppose.

Anyway, we're glad to be back again and for players such as Gordon Smith, Bobby Russell and Davie Cooper it looks as though they will be playing in their first Cup Final. I know they are all looking forward to it immensely and I'm sure they will do well.

Playing in Finals is a habit I will never tire of. I have said earlier Hampden is a grey old stadium, but I have to confess I would be very upset if my visits there came to an abrupt end!

Which Cup Finals stick out in my mind? They all have that something special, but I know I will never forget our 1966 Scottish Cup match against Celtic. We were expected to be hammered. Even some Rangers' fans told me the best they expected was a single goal defeat.

They should have known better; That attitude only made us try a little harder. The first game on a glorious afternoon was drawn 0-0. Then came the replay and a victory that was against all the odds.

We were playing fairly well when Kai Johansen, our Danish right-back, struck with the only goal of the game about 20 minutes from time. Willie Johnston, now working wonders on the wing for West Brom and Scotland, of course, sent over a low cross from the left and it was missed by everyone.

It wasn't cleared properly and it came out to Johansen, who was racing in from the inside-right position. He didn't break stride as he caught the ball first time from 30 yards and sent a shot hurtling away from the diving Ronnie Simpson. Brilliant!

Memories are made of that. I hope I have more after Saturday's League Cup Final. Wish us luck ...

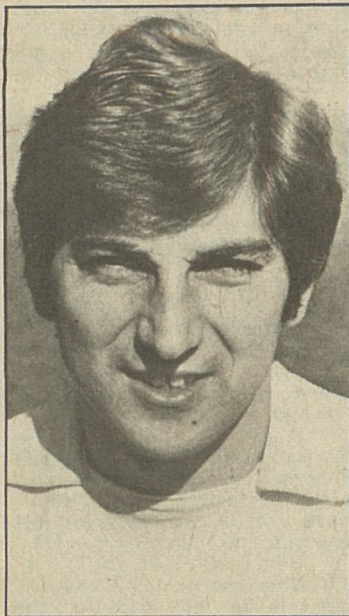
John Greig

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



Rangers (top of page) celebrate their winning goal v. Celtic in the 1975-76 League Cup Final. John Greig (right) clears v. Celtic.

**Tartan
Talk**
JOHN GREIG



SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

'THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR CELTIC'

hopes goalkeeper Peter Latchford

RECORD-BREAKING Celtic marched boldly into their 14th successive League Cup Final when they dismissed the threat of Hearts 2-0 in the Semi-Finals earlier this month.

Now they face their greatest rivals Rangers on Saturday and goalkeeper Peter Latchford, hero of so many of Celtic's games this season, says: "Everyone at Parkhead is looking forward to this match. Although Rangers are chasing the title and Celtic have had a lean time in the League, Premier Division form will count for nothing at Hampden. Both sides will start equal.

"It will be my third League Cup Final and, sadly, I have still to pick up a winner's medal. I think we were unlucky in our other two Finals, against Rangers and Aberdeen.

"We lost 1-0 to the Ibrox men, but I feel we had most of the pressure. I remember Tommy Callaghan, now with Clydebank, hammered a shot against the bar early in the game. If that had gone in I am certain we would have gone on to victory.

"Then against Aberdeen we actually took the lead with a penalty-goal from Kenny Dalglish, but we allowed Drew Jarvie to equalise before the interval. We had the bulk of the play in the second-half. I believe Ally MacLeod, then the Pittodrie manager, even admitted that.

"Bobby Clark made a couple of good saves, Paul Wilson hit the post, Danny McGrain drove a low shot inches past and then the game went into extra-time. It had hardly started when their substitute Davie Robb scored the winner.

"Now, though, I have the opportunity to make it third time lucky. I have already won Scottish Cup and League Championship medals. So, the only domestic honour that has escaped me so far has been the League Cup and now seems as good a time as any to rectify that little fault!"

Latchford has been Celtic's most consistent performer this season. His handling in most matches has been first class and it was no surprise when he was voted Celtic

Player of the Year by the Parkhead fans.

The day after receiving the award the popular Englishman played against Kilmarnock in the Scottish Cup-tie at Parkhead and if it hadn't been for his heroics Celtic would have been sensationally driven out of that tournament there and then.

He made one incredible tip-over save from Donny McDowell in the first-half and, with Kilmarnock leading 1-0, he made another amazing, high-flying save in the second-half to thwart the same player. His saves inspired Celtic into fighting back and gaining a replay with a late goal from centre-half Roddie MacDonald, one of the most underrated players in Scotland. Alas, Latchford could not prevent Killie winning 1-0 in the replay.

Latchford was inspired against Hearts, too. He made several breathtaking saves at crucial points in the game. However, if he

has been the star at the back, George McCluskey has been the main attraction up-front and his exciting runs and devastating finishing will undoubtedly worry the Rangers' rearguard.

McCluskey made the first goal against Hearts with a dazzling run down the right, finished off with a fine cross which was whipped into the net by Joe Craig. And it was McCluskey who got the second vital goal when he chased a pass-back deep into the Hearts' penalty-area and nonchalantly pushed the ball past the outrushing Ray Dunlop.

"It will be a great experience for me if I am selected," says the modest McCluskey. "Our supporters have been superb this season, sticking by us although our form has hardly been consistent. We want to give them a trophy and the League Cup would look nice in our boardroom."

Celtic also know they are unlikely to book a place in Europe

with their League placing at the end of the season. Their performances in the League have been woeful and the players know it. Victory on Saturday would certainly give them a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup and for a club like Celtic a place on the European front is a must.

That will give them added incentive as they take on Rangers, who were only seven minutes away from a disastrous result against little Forfar in their Semi-Final. They were losing 2-1 when substitute Derek Parlane popped up with an equaliser in the 83rd minute. They ran amok in extra-time when the Forfar part-timers just couldn't compete for stamina. It ended 5-2 for the Ibrox men.

Saturday's encounter should be a thriller. Hampden will shake to its foundations as both these sides hurtle everything at each other. The team that controls midfield will take the trophy. Who will that be? Only time will tell...



Aberdeen (plain strip) beat Celtic in last term's League Cup Final at Hampden by 2-1

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S QUIZ TIME

The Football League Cup and Scottish League Cup Finals are scheduled to be played on Saturday, March 18th. Can you answer the following questions?

1. The first Football League Cup Final was played in 1959-60, 1960-61 or 1961-62?

2. Since that first Final, how many clubs have had their name on the trophy?

3. Downsborough, Thomas (far right), Trollope, Butler, Burrows, Harland, Heath, Smart, Smith, Noble, Rogers, Penman (sub.) appeared in a League Cup Final. Can you (a) name the club, (b) the season and (c) the final result?

4. Everton's hopes of another League Cup Final appearance were dashed in the Quarter-Finals when they were hammered 4-1 by which other First Division club?

5. Who will be in charge of Saturday's Final?

6. Which one of these former players — Derek Dougan (below, right, Wolves), Denis Law (Manchester City) and Gordon Banks (Stoke) — has never collected a winner's tankard?

7. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a boss who managed a Cup Final side...
L B L I H N N L O I S O C
(H T T M A N E O).



8. True or false: Everton boss Gordon Lee was a member of Aston Villa's 1960-61 League Cup-winning side?

9. (a) When was the Final (action, bottom left) first played at Wembley and (b) which two clubs were involved?

10. Chelsea have appeared in one, two or three Finals?

11. The last time two clubs from outside the Old Firm of Rangers and Celtic played in the Scottish League Cup Final was back in 1960-61, 1961-62 or 1962-63 when Hearts and Kilmarnock clashed?

12. Saturday's date at Hampden Park will be the sixth, seventh or eighth time Rangers and Celtic have met in the Final of this competition?

13. Who was manager of Aberdeen when they captured the trophy last season?

14. SHOOT columnist Danny McGrain first appeared for Celtic in a League Cup Final in 1972-73 when they lost 2-1. Can you name their opponents?

15. Which one of the following clubs has never won the League Cup — Dundee, East Fife or Morton?

ANSWERS:

1. 1960-61. 2. 13. 3. (a) Swindon beat Arsenal 3-1 after extra-time. 4. Leeds United. 5. Pat Partridge. 6. Denis Law. 7. Bill Nicholson (Tottenham). 8. True. 9. (a) 1966-67. (b) Q.P.R. and West Brom. 10. Two. 11. 1962-63. 12. Seventh. 13. land. 14. Hibs. 15. Morton.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS: (1) Cooke. (3) Ross. (7) Morton. (9) Ankle. (11) Scorn. (13) Leeds Road. (16) Latent. (17) St. (18) Owls. (20) City. (21) No. (22) Had. (24) On. (26) Mid. (28) Ant. (30) Idea. (31) Notice. (32) Egg. (33) Red.

DOWN: (1) Charlton. (2) Oakwell. (3) Robson. (4) Or. (5) Stood. (6) So. (8) Ninety. (10) East. (12) Catch. (14) Dash. (15) Reading. (17) Stance. (19) Wood. (23) Am. (25) New. (27) Dog. (28) Air. (29) Ted. (30) In.

Jumbled Name: IAN BOWYER.

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NO CALLERS PLEASE. SAE FOR LIST.

IN NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT

Features: Special feature on the Easter programme, the "crunch" period when promotion and relegation can virtually be settled + Top transfer players talk about their moves: Joe Jordan (Man. U.), Graeme Souness (Liverpool), Tommy Craig (Villa) and Mark McGhee (Newcastle) + Managerial changes in the Football League's four Divisions since the end of last season + Report on the ten clubs in the Scottish Premier Division + A look at the history and past achievements of Nottingham Forest, the team that has made the biggest impact this season + Spotlights on Arsenal and Oldham + The Mexican, Arturo Ayala, in our World Cup captains series + What's being done to save Cardiff City from financial ruin + Columns from Ray Clemence, Ray Wilkins, Gordon Hill and Danny McGrain.

Colour: Barry Powell (Coventry) + Phil Boersma (Luton), + Brian Flynn (Leeds) + Focus on Mark Higgins (Everton) + Arsenal and Oldham team groups.

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW — AND DON'T FORGET TO LOOK OUT FOR SHOOT'S TWO FULL-COLOUR SUPERSTARS' POSTERS, ON SALE NOW.



compiled by John Pyke

PEN-PICTURES

(L.App.—League Appearances; G.—Goals; S.—Substitutes. Records are for the 1977-78 season up to the end of December, 1977.)

VIC DAVIDSON: Midfielder signed from Celtic in 1975. A clever reader of a game and has created many goals. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.9½. Wt. 10.7. L.App.—16 G.—4.

COLIN McADAM: Versatile player signed from Dumbarton in 1975. Ht. 6.2. Wt. 12.6. L.App.—9. G.—3.

STEWART MacLAREN: Defender signed from West Bromwich Albion in 1974. A regular player in the centre of the Motherwell defence. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.2. L.App.—18. G.—1.

WILLIE McVIE: Tough resolute defender signed from Clyde in 1975. Often comes up to attack from set pieces. Born Larkhall. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.3. L.App.—14.

PETER MARINELLO: Winger well remembered in England when Arsenal paid £100,000 to Hibs to buy him. Peter later played for Portsmouth before joining Motherwell in 1975. Born Edinburgh. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 11.0. L.App.—15 and 4 sub. G.—2.

JIMMY MILLER: Midfielder signed from Queen of the South in 1977. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 11.0. L.App.—19. G.—1.

PETER MILLER: Midfielder signed from Dunfermline in 1972. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.6. L.App.—11 and 4 sub. G.—1.

TOMMY O'NEILL: Midfielder signed from Shotts B.A. in 1974 and given some more League games this season. Ht. 5.7½. Wt. 10.0. L.App.—3 and 3 sub. G.—1.

JIMMY O'ROURKE: Striker signed from St. Johnstone in 1976. Second top scorer in the League for Motherwell in the 1976-77 season. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 10.10. L.App.—8 and 8 sub. G.—3.

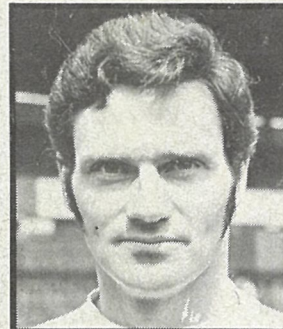
WILLIE PETTIGREW: Top Scottish striker with five full Scottish caps. Not only scores goals but has the great ability of drawing defenders out of position. Born Motherwell. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 10.12. L.App.—10. G.—4.

IAN PURDIE: Striker signed from Dundee in 1977. Soon became a first team regular in the side and was also in the goals for his new club. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.0. L.App.—11 and 4 sub. G.—3.

THE arrival of a new manager at Motherwell has worked wonders for the Fir Park club. Roger Hynd took over in December and the club proceeded to go the next six games without defeat and without conceding a goal.

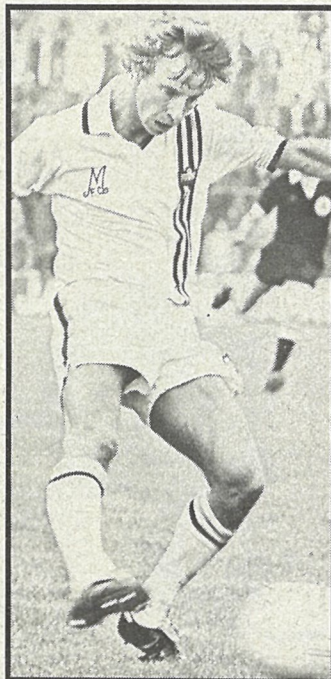
Unfortunately all good things come to an end, and Scottish Champions-elect Rangers ruined that run by winning 5-3 at Fir Park on the last Saturday in February. But Hynd has arrived with a new approach to football for Motherwell and hope for the supporters that trophies could be on the way in the next few seasons.

As 'Well supporters know, it was in 1952 the Scottish Cup was won. A season earlier the club won the Scottish League Cup and only fans with long memories will remember the League Championship success of 1932.



MOTHERWELL

VIC DAVIDSON



IAN PURDIE



Motherwell manager Roger Hynd (above) was a strong dominating centre-back who saw service as a player in Scotland and England. His first professional club was Glasgow Rangers and made over 100 first team appearances before moving to Crystal Palace in 1971. Roger joined Birmingham City for whom he made 171 League appearances until signing for Walsall in December, 1975. Took over as Motherwell manager in December, 1977.

RECORD VICTORY:

12-1 v Dundee United, Division Two, 1953-54.

RECORD DEFEAT:

3-8 v Partick Thistle, Division One, December 11th, 1971.

MOST LEAGUE POINTS IN A SEASON:
66 in Division One, 1931-32.

HIGHEST LEAGUE SCORER IN A SEASON:
Willie McFadyen, 52, Division One, 1931-32.

TOP LEAGUE SCORERS

1972-73	Willie McClymont.....	6
1973-74	Bobby Graham.....	13
1974-75	Willie Pettigrew.....	20
1975-76	Willie Pettigrew.....	22
1976-77	Willie Pettigrew.....	21

STUART RENNIE: First team goalkeeper for Motherwell and was signed from Falkirk in 1974. Stuart has become one of the top 'keepers in Scotland. Born in Edinburgh. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.0. L.App.—16.

JIM ROBERTSON: Striker signed from East Kilbride in 1977. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 10.8. L.App.—5.

GREGOR STEVENS: Defender signed from Baillieston in 1974. Often comes through from defence to set up attacks for his side. His fine play has been rewarded with Scotland Under-21 appearances. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.0. L.App.—20. G.—2.

JOE WARK: A consistent defender for Motherwell since signing from Irvine Vics in 1968 and again this season has not missed a match for the club. Born Irvine. Ht. 5.8½. Wt. 11.8. L.App.—20.

WILLIE WATSON: Local-born defender who was first given his League debut by Manchester United in the English First Division. Transferred to Motherwell in 1973. Born Motherwell. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 12.10. L.App.—18 and 1 sub.

GROUND: Fir Park.

SIZE OF PITCH: 110 yards by 72 yards.

TELEPHONE No: Motherwell 63229.

NICKNAME: "Well".

COLOURS: All amber strip with claret and white trim.



MOJIBERWILL



BACK ROW (left to right): Willie Watson, Steve Mungall, Colin McAdam, Willie McVie, Harry Gray, Gregor Stevens, Willie Pettigrew, Vic Davidson, Ian Purdie, Roger Hynd (manager). FRONT ROW: John Hagart (asst.-manager), Ian Kennedy, Stewart McLaren, Peter Miller, Joe Wark, Jim O'Rourke, Jimmy Miller, Peter Marinello, Willie McKenzie (trainer).

SHOOT!